The Meaning Of Service

Ken Chapman · James 1:27

INTRODUCTION

- Sometimes we just use the wrong words, don't we? And sometimes that's comical, and sometimes that's dangerous.
- This morning I'd like for us to look at two words in Scripture that sometimes we misunderstand.

1 Visit Orphans and Widows in Their Trouble

James 1:27; Matthew 25:36; Exodus 4:31

- Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
- The true meaning of the word visit here means the idea to, yes, to look upon, but to look upon with the intent to see and to fulfill the needs of that person.
- The idea of the visit was not just to see them, but to see about them.
- So the goal of every one of those visits was to remedy that which was lacking.
- When they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

2 Be Hospitable to One Another Without Grumbling

1 Peter 4:9

- Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.
- You're providing something for somebody who cannot provide for themselves with no vision of ever being repaid or reciprocated in any kind.
- The ancient principle of opening up your home for both a meal and an overnight visit, if not several overnight visits, of an absolute stranger.
- Be truly giving and charitable to those who do not have, and those who will not reciprocate or pay in any time.
- Word visit now implies that there's going to be no charity by proxy.
- This hospitality involves trouble, expense, and time.

3 We Will Have Eyes to Serve

Galatians 6:10

- As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially those of the household of faith.
- It also implies, does it not, that I have to be seeking and seeing that opportunity? That I have to have eyes to serve.
- You're only seeing it now because you're looking for it. That's the way it is with opportunity.
- Don't be blind to your opportunities to serve.

4 A Heart That Serves

Philippians 2:5

- Let this mind be in you, which also was in Christ Jesus.
- It's going to take effort upon our part, which may mean that's not our default mind.
- Learn the mind of Christ. Practice the mind of Christ, and change your attitude in your heart.
- We empty ourselves of excuses. And we develop a heart like Jesus to serve.

5 Hands That Serve

1 John 3:18

- If we have eyes to serve, if we have a heart that will serve, then we will have hands that serve.
- We'll have the mind of Christ that caused him in the face of both his betrayer and his denier to don a towel, to get on his knees, and wash their feet.
- Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
- Our religion, our Christianity only has meaning if we put it into action.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Would you come to Christ this morning? Can we help you in any spiritual way as you hand your life over to Christ or come back to him in repentance this morning?**

MY NOTES