

The logo features the words "Kingdom Living" in a yellow, cursive font, with the hashtag "#VineyardValues" in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font below it. The text is centered within a red circle, which is set against a background of a dark blue and green marbled pattern.

Kingdom Living

#VineyardValues

Kingdom Living – Serving

Date: Sunday 2nd July 2017

Speakers: Andrew McNeil, Rosie McNeil

Key Verses: Mark 10:42-25

Summary

John 13:3-5 Jesus was utterly secure, knowing who He was, where He had come from and where He was going. This meant that He was completely free to serve.

“When you know who you are, you no longer fight for identity. This is how our identities as both sons and servants interact: It is from our identity as loved children that we are enabled to serve effectively” - Bill Johnson

The followers of Jesus in the early church really understood this new style of relating to others. The Greek word for servant is: Doulos. Virtually every writer of the New Testament saw himself as a doulos, a servant of Jesus Christ.

They realised that Jesus had laid down his life to bring them alive to God. They had a new life that was made possible because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. And in the light of this they laid down their lives as servants.

Jesus doesn't simply invite us to serve; He invites us to be servants. The question is one of ownership. If you see yourself as in control, you determine where and when you want to expend your energy. That's not what we are invited to. As we lay down our agenda we move into His.

We are called to use whatever gifts we have to serve one another. Church is made possible by the service of many. We grow in the process and His church grows too.

I'll serve even if it's not convenient. Most of Jesus' miracles were in the context of interruptions. "Every gift (act of service) breaks the barrier between the sacred and the mundane and floods the mundane with the sacred. When a gift (act or service) is given, life becomes extraordinary because God's own gift-giving flows through the giver." Miroslav Volf

I'll serve even if it's not natural. Some of the areas God calls you to serve in will be consistent with your temperament, talents, and spiritual gifts. But some might feel unnatural, we're often simply called to help - 1 Corinthians 12 v 28.

I'll serve even if it's not easy. We want to keep the culture of generous service alive by unapologetically inviting everyone to serve in church. As we serve we're reminded of our calling to be servants of Jesus.

I'll serve even if it's not noticed. Servants take initiative. When you spot something that needs doing, you do it. Servants respond well. If someone asks you to do something, don't be defensive. In principle let the answer be a yes.

The mystery is that when we serve others we are actually serving Jesus. Matthew 25 "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Questions for small groups

- Describe a moment when you've served and it's aligned with your temperament and gifts? What was rewarding in that?
- What qualities do you admire in a servant hearted friend / leader?
- How have you been impacted by being served? Recall the story.
- What would it look like if every single person in church regularly served?
- What are some of the benefits of serving?

Activity

Ephesians 4:16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Everyone has a role to invite others onto teams to be involved.

Ask every single person in your cell to sign up to serve on a Sunday team as a tangible expression of living as a servant.

Other Resources

Some inspirational leadership authors.

- [A 4 minute video by Jim Collins - Author of Good to Great](#)
- Two great books by Patrick Lencioni
The Advantage - Why Organizational Health Trumps Everything Else in Business
The Five Dysfunctions of a Team

You can find book summaries online and many of his Videos on youtube.

- Fred Kiel - Return on Character - [Published in the Harvard Business review.](#)