

4. The biblical vision of the new creation is that we will not only be restored spiritually and physically, but we will also be restored to our role as rulers (on God's behalf) over creation. Read the passage below (including Genesis 1:26-28 in the sermon outline) and then consider how we can begin now to live out this future role (doing God's will on earth as it is in heaven).

Matthew 5: ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Matthew 25: ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

1 Corinthians 6: ¹ If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? ...³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

2 Timothy 2: ¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him.

James 2: ⁵ Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

Revelation 5: ¹⁰ "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

5. Read Matthew 16:19-21. How has serving formed your heart and desires?

6. What are some of the roadblocks to serving in your life right now?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Serve: Be a Difference Maker

"How Serving Others Makes Us Whole"

Mark 10:32-45; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 6:19-21

How Serving Makes Us Whole

1. We are _____ to serve. (Mark 10:32-45)

According to Jesus, his followers don't _____ to satisfy their own needs; they lead to serve others.

Genesis 1: ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind **in our image**, in our likeness, **so that they may rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So **God created mankind in his own image**,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and **subdue it. Rule over** the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

We were created to _____ and Jesus is explaining that ruling is always about serving others (including God).

2. We are _____ by God to serve. (Romans 12:1-8)

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice = _____ each other in the body of Christ

3. Our hearts and desires are _____ by serving. (Matthew 16:19-21)

Spiritual disciplines/habits/practices form our hearts and _____.

When will we _____ that the only way to grow emotionally and spiritually will require embracing new disciplines or returning to the disciplines we've been neglecting?

Spiritual Practices Common to Kids Who Flourish Spiritually As Adults

- Bible _____
- P _____
- S _____

"It wasn't just that parents took their kids to church (where "professional clergy" could feed them spiritually), but that the children were included and integrated into the church through the avenue of service. The habit of serving others in the church and community likely formed these young adults in a way that kept them from identifying merely as a churchgoing "consumer," but instead as a contributor to the building up of God's people. Down the list a little, church mission trips show up, another indicator of the power of active service." (Trevin Wax)

Most of the time, moving from _____ to contributor requires showing up.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How has serving others either taken a hit or thrived in your life since the beginning of the pandemic?
3. Read Mark 10:32-45. What are some lessons on serving you can learn from this passage?