

Sunday Morning Worship at Brentwood, Aug 7, 2016

**Notes for the sermon on Be Ready to Serve
Ps 33:12-22 and Luke 12:32-40 – Sermon Text = Luke 12:37**

***Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes;
truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat,
and he will come and serve them.***

[Hymns = 534, 530, and 556 in the Canadian Presbyterian *Book of Praise*]



Key Ideas

1. Readiness to serve involves a combination of intention – to be of service – and attention – to notice the opportunities to serve – in Jesus parable, Luke urges the followers of Jesus to be alert for his coming – happens not as many expected in the early church (soon and dramatically), but rather in the slow, steady, often hidden work of the Holy Spirit through faithful followers that serve (patience and persistence in being blessings wherever God has sent us)
2. What enables and energizes all of our abilities to serve is one crucial reality – God serves us first – we are equipped by the work of the Holy Spirit with all the gifts needed to serve as God intends and that ‘way’ has been revealed in the flesh by Jesus of Nazareth – a life of faith, prayer, learning, courage and compassion lived out of gratitude for that grace in the midst of fear and division – social domination, intellectual competition, economic oppression, political violence, military imperialism – in the midst of human arrogance and ignorance, a different ‘way’ of life being offered – nourished by a grace that makes no worldly sense because it is forming a new world of justice, peace, and joy – a world already present and working its wonders through the readiness of the followers of Jesus Christ to serve in gratitude for the grace they have received
3. How do we develop that readiness? – 1) be attentive to the passion God ignites in us by serving us in Jesus through the influence of the Spirit – 2) practice the ways of Jesus with patience and persistence - the greatest cellist of the 20th century was Pablo Casals – he was asked why, at the age of 93, he still practiced 3 hrs a day – “Because,” he answered, “I’m beginning to notice some improvement.” – no matter where you are in your life journey, practice in service can bring improvement – 3) this way of life flows from an attitude of gratitude for how God serves us through everything that enables our lives to flourish in justice, peace, and joy

Sermon notes of Rev Dr Brian Fraser,
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