



1848 to 2023 – Stilled Called to Serve!

Devotionals - 23 - 29 April 2023 ~ Read: Matthew 20

Today's chapter is Matthew 20. In this chapter Jesus will go further into telling His disciples what He came to accomplish. As they continue to think Jesus has come to fill their expectations, Jesus continues to try to get them to pay attention to what He's trying to teach them. He's telling them He's going to die and in verse 21 they'll ask if they can sit on His right and His left, asking for the positions of power in

His kingdom. In light of their incorrect view of what it means to be great, Jesus has to set the record straight. And this isn't just one person's opinion. This is Jesus Christ's view on greatness which means specifically that this is God's view of what it means to be great. What He says is simply astounding.

After hearing Jesus words (Matthew 20:25-28), their jaws hit the ground! Completely contrary to everything they'd seen and heard their whole lives - especially from the religious leaders. So, then what is true greatness?

Notice the last part of Jesus' words: "...just as the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve..." Jesus is saying to us, "Look at what I'm doing here! Not only am I giving you the perfect example to follow but I'm also proving this isn't some intellectual exercise by the simple fact that I'm doing what I'm telling you to do!"

If Jesus claimed to be God - and He is - and His records bears that fact out - check it out for yourself; it does! Then there's no one else who could ever know the level of humility Jesus knew when He left heaven and came to earth to serve His creation. Imagine, the God of all creation, the One who has legitimate right to demand all service be rendered to Him, and He comes and serves us instead! This doesn't make any sense...

Jesus Christ comes and says, "Instead of you serving Me, I came and served you. Instead of you serving me to earn your way into heaven, because I earned heaven for you and give it to you freely by faith, now your service comes from gratitude instead of obligation." This is what Jesus came to do and here we see that greatness isn't in how much power you accumulate, how much money you have, or how many people call you "boss".

True greatness is found as we serve those around us without regard for our own gain or loss. When we see others as more important than ourselves - as Jesus clearly did - and we find our worth in God's estimation of us instead of humanities, then we're free to serve everyone as Christ served us; we remember Jesus' words that with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

Talking to Our Heavenly Father - *If we have faith, our prayers will be answered.*

You're Not Alone, Let Us Pray with You & For You

PRAYER & CONCERNS

- A Service in Witness to the Resurrection, Remembering **Ms. Barbara Lovensheimer**, will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m. at Living Hope Presbyterian Church, W156N4881 Pilgrim Road, Menomonee Falls, WI 53089. Cards and notes of support and comfort can be mailed to Ms. Barb's significant friend, **Mr. Jerry Loebe, Dickson Hollow, W156N4881 Pilgrim Road, #350, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.**
- Merciful God, as we mourn the loss of your faithful servant; husband, father, grandfather great-grandfather, and friend, **Mr. Richard "Dick" Simmons**, we ask you to cover his devoted family and friends with your wings of love and compassion. We know God that you love them so much and that you will take care of all their needs. Lord, fill the gap that has been left in their hearts and give them the courage to face each day without Mr. Dick. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. Cards and messages of love and support can be mailed to Mrs. Shirley Simmons & Family, 2908 Valley Avenue, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **Bro. Bob Krell**, is rooted in our hearts as we shower him and the Family with our love, care and support. He is grateful and humbled for your prayers and cards of restoration, strength and miraculous healing. Thank you,

God, for hearing and answering our prayer. Cards and notes of love and encouragement can be mailed to: Bro. Bob and Mrs. Jean Krell, 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090.

- **Mr. Len McGinnis, Jr.**, continues to quietly face medical challenges with valor, hope and courage. Comfort his pain, calm his fears, and surround Mr. Len with Your peace. Your cards and notes of healing prayers and support for Mr. Len and Mrs. Shelia McGinnis can be mailed to: 1230 Vogt Drive, West Bend, WI 53095.
- We remain in prayer and support to **Ms. Ann Cording** after her recent surgery. Ms. Ann will undergo further medical treatment. Visit Ms. Ann, dear Lord and grant her strength to bear this sickness with which she is afflicted, with patience, submission to Your will and trust in Your loving care. We humbly pray that You will bless the means used for Ms. Ann's recovery and those persons who will administer them. Cards and notes of love and care can be mailed to: Mrs. Ann Cording, 1416 S. Silverbrook Drive, West Bend WI 53095
- Mr. Brett Barnett is recovering from hip surgery. We give God thanks and praise and pray that God will bless our brother with God's loving care, renew his strength, and heal what ails him in Jesus loving name. Cards and notes can be mailed to: Mr. Brett and Ms. Mary Barnett, 932 Hillcrest Street, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **We still need YOU! We need leaders and volunteers to serve in various positions on committees and boards. You may not think you have the gift, talent, and/or time to serve, but all are called to work in the kingdom. We need you!**
- Our **church family members and friends** are experiencing all forms of challenges and concerns. "Lord, give me the courage to face the challenges and ills that come. Help me to persevere and not give up. Give me the strength to face these storms. Pour out your peace over me and keep me in your perfect peace. Amen.
- **Ms. Sandy Wamser** having been diagnosed with Epilepsy, is still working with her medical team to find the correct medications and doses to control the seizures. She is very grateful for your love, prayers and support. Special prayers for Mr. Pat as he cares for Ms. Sandy. Cards and notes can be sent to: Mr. Pat and Mrs. Sandy Wamser, 3742 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **Ms. Nancy Whitson** is still admitted at The Pavilion at Glacier Valley. She requests your prayers and support as she continues to journey with health concerns. Please send cards and notes of encouragement to: Mrs. Nancy Whitson, 922 Hickory Street, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **Mr. Don Walters** is still experiencing several medical challenges. We're keeping Ms. Joyce in our thoughts and prayers as well. Letters and notes of encouragement and love can be mailed to: Mr. Don and Mrs. Joyce Walters, 5368 Woodlawn Summit, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **Mr. Chuck Rogge** is still on a journey of healing. He is grateful for the cards and notes of support. Please continue to flood the mailbox with love and support to: Mr. Chuck and Mrs. Sue Rogge, 5011 Hwy. P, West Bend, WI 53095.
- **Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf**, appreciates your continued prayers for healing and strength as she continues to struggle with illness. You can send emails of prayers and support to: alankempf33@gmail.com; or cards and notes to Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.

Prayer: Gracious God, as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future. We pray that You would continue to make Your love known among us. Give us a zeal for mission. Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know You. Make this church a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with strength and courage toward what lies ahead. Loving God, we give thanks to You for Your goodness through all the centuries of worship and witness in FAUMC. We give You thanks for Your grace in calling us to be Your people; for Your love revealed to us in Christ Your Son; for Your gift of the Spirit and the joy of salvation. We give thanks for those who established this congregation 175 years ago and for their faith and vision, for their gifts and abilities. We give thanks for all who have been members of this congregation, those who have given freely of their time, talents and monies; and for those whose wisdom guide our congregation. We give thanks for all who have preached and taught here; for all who have confessed that Jesus is Lord; and or all who today lead in worship, witness, and service in our church. In Jesus precious name we pray. Amen.

With passionate hope, love and the promise of your Resurrection, your humble Pastor-servant leaders,

Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin