

DESCENDING BEFORE ASCENDING

17 April 2016

“True North” Series

Lifegroup Devotional



The way the world works is when you're young (and broke), you serve and do menial jobs. But that's just a gateway to greater things! As you become more educated, you climb up the ladder. As you climb up the ladder, you gain esteem and prominence. You move from being 'one of the crowd' to being a 'somebody'. You have your own office, with your name on the door. People notice when you walk into a room and they treat you with deference! People apologize for interrupting you because they know your time is valuable. It's not to be wasted on trivial things. You do the important work, and leave the menial work for people below. And yet God's word (our roadmap) tells us that the journey to our True North is along a completely different route.

Read **Ex.2:11-15, 23-25.**

At Mavuno, we believe that God the reason God brought each and every single one of us is here because He has a divine purpose for you.

Once we begin to discern our purpose, once we begin to understand our True North, it's easy to get so dissatisfied with life as it is that we want to jump in right away and do something about it. To want to quit your job and to start tomorrow... But the danger is that we can end up doing the right thing at the wrong time. We can sabotage our purpose because we acted prematurely. **We need to ask God not just to show us 'the what' of our lives but also 'the when'.** When it comes to purpose, it's not just important that we do the right thing but that we do it in the right season. And this leads me to my main point.

Refinement precedes assignment.

What do you do to prepare yourself for God's assignment? How do you position yourself so that you're ready to accomplish God's purpose? **You serve!** Just because you get a call from God doesn't mean you jump into it immediately. You need to go through the season of refining, which is the season of serving. As Moses served his father-in-law by looking after his sheep in the desert, God was preparing him to look after a nation in the wilderness. As David served his father by killing lions and bears that wanted to destroy the sheep, God was preparing him to kill the giants who wanted to destroy God's people. As Joseph administrated Potiphar's household and later administrated his prison with excellence, God was preparing him to administrate the most powerful nation on earth. What I'm saying is that serving faithfully today prepares you for your destiny tomorrow. **Refinement precedes assignment.**

When you serve in church, you move from consumer to contributor, from participant to partner, from tourist to team member. To stay on the sidelines is to sabotage your growth. Because **refinement precedes assignment.**

Discussion Points

- What did the Holy Spirit say to you through this word?
- Are you serving currently? What are some areas of need you see at Mavuno Church?
- How can serving at Mavuno develop and prepare you for your future?

Church Involvement Points:

- Talk about the Sound Challenge. What have you given towards the sound challenge?
- Remind your group: The refresh challenge starts 8th May. Mizizi books available for sale at the service. More info at www.mavunokampala.org