DEVELOPING A SERVANT HEART
Mark 10:43-45; Matthew 20:26; Mark 9:35; Philippians 2:1-8

Introduction:  1) The Goal of our Salvation  2) Following Christ means to make it your goal to become like Christ  3) We tend to focus on our behavior, it’s good that we want to do right, but wanting to do right is not enough, ask Paul in Romans 7, we need to focus on our heart, our attitudes, our value system, when what is important in the mind of Christ becomes important to us then it will affect our behavior, you will find yourself doing right more and doing wrong less. This is always the process of how we become more Christ like.  We examine the Scriptures to see the heart of Jesus thinking, this the Holy Spirit uses to change our heart mentality, and this in turn changes us more and more into the image of Christ.  This is what it means to follow Jesus or the term often used discipleship.  Scripture teaches, as a man thinks in his heart so is he.  Consider these passages:  Ephesians 6:17; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16; and 2 Corinthians 3:18  4) Does it matter to you what Christ thinks about you?  If you want to be thought of as great in the eyes of the Lord, then developing a servant heart should be something you will greatly desire.  Consider this passage:  Well done thy good and faithful SERVANT.  5) Most sermons on this topic are just lots of passages and lots of telling you to be a servant and then encouraging you to be a servant.  This morning I want to show you how to develop a servant’s heart and how to nurture it to keep it going.

I. Get your Purpose in Life established in your mind (This is huge, it’s not just keep me out of hell, God saved us to be like Christ and bring him honor and glory with our lives)
   A. You must change your way of thinking from a ME centered thinking to a GOD centered thinking - 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
      1. Paul called the Corinthians Carnal (1 John 2 and James 4)
2. You must get into your mind that my goal in this world is to serve and glorify God in every area of my life
   B. If you accept your purpose in life then you must accept that God is in charge of your life, He is your LORD (God does not revolve around you, James 4, you serve him)
      1. This mentality of purpose and acceptance of God’s plans for you will keep you from being a habitual complainer (Do all things without complaining, God didn’t think much of this when Israel came out of Egypt)
      2. It develops a Hebrews 11 and 12 mentality which is, God is faith and He can be trusted
      3. It turns us into willing givers (we are willing to give our time and resources to serve God, people who are not givers are not because they are not servants and the majority of Christians fit into this category)
      4. It enables us to endure trials and tribulations cheerfully (We know it pleases the Lord, we share in his suffering in a sense, serving people when nothing happens or they return evil)

II. Be Determined to Follow Jesus - Philippians 2:5-8
   A. Jesus accepted his purpose in life - Mark 10:45 (Humility always leads to obedience, servants always get more grace, James 4)
      1. He left heaven
      2. He took on the form of a servant
      3. He was obedient even to the death of the cross
   B. Who was Jesus thinking about in his life
      1. Pleasing His Father
      2. Serving us by giving himself to us on the cross - Hebrews 12:2 (It didn’t make a difference to many but it sure made the decisive difference in many.)

Conclusion: 1) In the last several decades a disturbing trend has
developed in the American Church. It seems to be the trend that the sole goal of Church is to get more and more numbers coming to Church, nothing wrong with wanting more people in Church unless that is the real and only goal. The goal of Church is to make disciples, baptize them, and then teach them to become more like Christ. To present them as mature believers, making disciples and people growing more into the likeness of Christ is the goal. But, as Church today focus on the numbers or other goals Church has begun to mirror the culture. The culture is growing into a largely spectator culture. Sports, entertainment, television, etc have all conspired to turn Americans into spectators. Church is growing that way. More and more Church folks believe that being a spectator is normal, preferable, and actually ok with God. We watch Church not do it. Let me ask you again. Do you care what Christ thinks about you? Being a spectator is not going to make him think very highly of you, yes, he will love you, he will forgive you, you are his child but a parent with a lazy child who won’t do anything sure doesn’t inspire much good thoughts about, makes for a poor reputation. 2) How do we develop a servant’s heart? Learn to become the Lord’s servant first, accept our purpose in life, accept his Lordship over our life, look at Christ example, and then begin to serve people. The Purpose we do this service, to help unbelievers become believers in Christ and to help believers grow into the likeness of Jesus. Finally, we do it so that one day Jesus will say the greatest words we will ever hear, well done thou good and faithful servant. Are you a servant? You can’t possibly be a good and faithful anything to God until you first become his servant. Today, the Church needs servants more than we need more attenders. Come and join us today. Are you saved? Baptized? Church Member?