

WEEK THIRTY-THREE: “How Real Servants Act”
DAY ONE: “Real Servants Serve People”

Read: Matthew 7:15-23 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1085)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 257 to bottom of 258

Reflect: What is the fruit that is growing in your life? (Fruit is the proof that you are indeed following Jesus.)

Dig: According to this text, how should we judge whether someone is a real prophet?

How long might it take to know if someone’s life is truly shaped by God?

What phrase does Jesus repeat twice in this passage?

What are the things that people will do in Jesus’ name, but which are not truly of God? See verses 21-22.

What do the verses immediately following this passage (Matthew 7:24-27) add to your understanding of what Jesus is teaching here about bearing fruit?

Apply: What fruit should you pray for that will be evident in your life? Turn to Galatians 5:22-23 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1352) to see what the Bible defines as good fruit. Choose one of these that you especially need today and ask God to bless you with this fruit.

WEEK THIRTY-THREE: “How Real Servants Act”
DAY TWO: “Ready to Serve”

Read: Galatians 6:7-10 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1352)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, pp. 258 through middle of 260

Reflect: Do you have the time and the mind-set to be available to others to meet their needs? Why or why not?

Dig: Does this passage use the thought of eternal rewards to motivate us to serve others?

How does what this text teaches us about rewards fit with the way you think of motivations to serve others?

How is the image of growth and agriculture used here? What lesson are we to be learning by this analogy of farming?

What group of people is supposed to be on the top of our list of priorities?

According to verse 1 of this chapter, what is one way that we can do good to those who belong to the family of believers?

Apply: The *Purpose-Driven Life* book encourages us to “...remind yourself at the start of every day that you are God’s servant...thus interruptions won’t frustrate you as much, because your agenda will be whatever God wants to bring into your life. Servants see interruptions as divine appointments for ministry and are happy for the opportunity to practice serving.” Take a moment and write out a prayer asking God to keep you on his agenda of serving today.

WEEK THIRTY-THREE: “How Real Servants Act”
DAY THREE: “Being Faithful in Little Things”

Read: Luke 16:10-13 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1181)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, middle of p. 260 to middle of p. 262

Reflect: Do you ever think that some jobs are “beneath” you? Like what?

Dig: What principle of developing servants of God do you see here in verse 10?

How well does the church do in following this principle?

What might “true riches” mean here?

If you are not tithing (giving back to God 10% of your income) do you think he will give you great opportunities for service and leadership in his kingdom? Why or why not?

Apply: Our book states, “Every week churches and other organizations must improvise because volunteers didn’t prepare, didn’t show up, or didn’t even call to say they weren’t coming. Can you be counted on by others? Are there promises you need to keep, vows you need to fulfill, or commitments you need to honor?”

Write out a prayer asking God to make you more faithful to your commitments.

WEEK THIRTY-THREE: “How Real Servants Act”

DAY FOUR: “Real Servants Maintain a Low Profile”

Read: Philippians 2:1-7 (*Freedom in Christ Bible*, p. 1366)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life*, middle of p. 262-264

Reflect: Do you think of yourself as a humble person? Why or why not?

Do you think of yourself as a submissive person? Why or why not?

Dig: What are the commands of verse 3?

What is “vain conceit” and how much do you see this characteristic in our culture?

How do you “consider others better than yourself”? Hint: look at the very next verse for an answer.

How did Jesus humble himself?

Acting like a servant is difficult to achieve. How does verse 12 of this chapter give you hope that you can maintain this servant attitude?

Apply: How can you “look to the interests of others” today in some practical way? Write out a prayer asking God for the heart and opportunity today to serve someone.

WEEK THIRTY-THREE: “How Real Servants Act”
DAY FIVE: “I Serve God by Serving Others”

Using the “Lectio Divina” method of Bible study (see page 3 of this booklet), **meditate on this scripture:**

“If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.” Matthew 10:42 (NLT)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- ♦ *reading*: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- ♦ *meditation*: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- ♦ *prayer*: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility, and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.