

**Definition: serve**

To perform duties for another person or organization. To work, to supply, to assist, to help, to hand out, to provide for another or to wait on another.

**Scripture Reading:**

So, you shall **serve** the LORD your God and He will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from the midst of you. / You shall fear the LORD your God and **serve** Him and shall take oaths in His name / Now therefore, fear the LORD, **serve** Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers **served** on the other side of the River and in Egypt. **Serve** the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to **serve** the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will **serve**, whether the gods which your fathers **served** that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will **serve** the LORD. / **Serve** the LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing. / No one can **serve** two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot **serve** God and mammon. / ... (*Anna*) was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but **served** God with fastings and prayers night and day. / If anyone **serves** me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My **servant** will be also. If anyone **serves** Me, him My Father will honour. / For God is my witness, whom I **serve** with my spirit in the gospel of His Son ... / Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another; ... **servicing** the Lord / For you, ... have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as opportunity for the flesh, but through love **serve** one another. / And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye **serve** the Lord Christ.

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*Ex 23:25; Deut 6:13; Josh 24:14-15; Ps 100:2; Matt 6:24; Luke 2:37; John 12:26; Rom 1:9, 12:10-11; Gal 5:13; Col 3:23-24*

**Discipleship Directive:**

In the body of Christ, we are called to **serve** one another. To **serve** means to humble oneself or give of oneself, to bless and encourage another. We are also to watch whom we **serve**; we are not to **serve** the rulers of this world, but we are to give our all, in **servicing** Christ Jesus. Joshua challenge the people to make a choice between the gods of this world or Lord God of all creation. The people needed to decide clearly who they where going to **serve** both now and in the future. Jesus also encourages the disciples that they do not fall into the temptation or the trap of **servicing** the gods of materialism. Paul warns that we are to **serve** one another with all diligence and not use our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, just to **serve** our own self and desires. **Service** must be rooted deeply in remembering what Christ has done for us and that He Himself did not come to be **serve**, but to be a **servant** to others. Our example for **servicing** is Christ's testimony. Remember when it seems that we are not able to **serve**, pray to Jesus and He will send forth the Holy Spirit who will empower us so that we can **serve** both Christ and others, not through our strength and ability but through His strength and ability. Christ can and will, if we have faith in Him, empowers us for **service**.

**Dedication Prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

I come to you today, because so often my flesh desires to serve myself or the gods of this world. Lord I pray that you will empower my heart to be like Joshua that when I face trials and struggles, You will keep me clearly on Your path of service. Lord I want to serve you and your body with all my heart, but sometimes there seems to be many battles inside between my mind and heart. I even grow weary, but I ask that You fill me afresh with your Spirit today so that I will be empowered to die to myself and live fully for you and for others. I do not want to live a live torn between many masters, but I desire to keep my focus, committed to following and serving you. Lord I longing to be a vessel that You can use to bless others and that people would see You shining through my life as a true servant of yours. Amen!

Your servant,

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Feb 10, 2020