How many are of you are ready for the best year, best year, best year you have ever had? I mean, we're ready for it. And what I'm excited about is I'm going to share with you how to have your best year. In fact, I'll guarantee it if you'll just do what I'm about to share. It's just going to set you up for an incredible best year. Some of the most beautiful things in life are just simple things that if we do, it just tweaks us and makes us live an incredible better life. And so I'm very excited about sharing with you. So here's the secret of making it a great year. Every day. Serve someone every day,

Every day, add value to people every day. Serve one every day. Live the intentional life of doing for others sometimes what they cannot do for themselves. And if you will put people first and add value to them and serve them, it becomes absolutely amazing what you and I are going to have and achieve, how we're going to help people and in return how it comes back to us. Benjamin Franklin said this, no one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of someone else. If you're helping someone else lift a load in your life, you become a very useful person. But Hana Gandhi said that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. But perhaps on this kind of a theme, my favorite quote is from Albert Schweitzer who said, I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know, the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve what he's right on.

The happiest people are not always the most successful people, but they're the ones who serve the best. I've met a lot of unhappy, successful people, haven't you? But I've never met an unhappy person that gave their life of serving and giving and adding value to other people. Martin Luther King, just JR said, everybody can be great because everybody can serve only one time, only one time in the gospels as it recorded that Jesus said, follow me and follow my example only one time. And that's when he was washing the feet, serving the disciples. And I just want to talk to you today about how you and I can just intentionally begin to do this. In my younger years of forming myself as a young leader, I kind of thought that what leaders did was get everybody to join their team and cast the vision. And so that's what I was doing. And then in about 27, I heard Zig Ziglar say, who became a great friend of mine, Zig said, if you will help people get what they want, then you'll receive everything that you need in life. And when I heard that, I thought, oh, I've got this turned around. I need to focus on people. I need to put others first, and if I help them, then all the stuff that I'm going to need, I'm going to get as a return. And about the same time, I read a book by Eugene Habecker called The Other Side of Leadership.

Eugene said in his book, the True leaders serves people and their best interests. True leaders are motivated by loving concern rather than personal glory. So if Jesus were here, and we would say to him what's important, what he would say to us is He would say, valuing people is important. And not only valuing people, but serving people. When you biblically begin to understand serving people, there are three things that you kind of understand and come to grips with. Number one is that a servant puts, first of all, service over status. If you're going to really serve people, you got to forget yourself. Now, I know a lot of people, they're the exact opposite. They're full of themselves. And when you're full of yourself, when I'm full of myself, all I can think about is me. And the moment that it gets there, it's all of a sudden everything's going to be centered about who I am, where I am, what's happening to me. And we all have to fight that because we are basically selfish. We're born selfish. One of the reasons why living an intentional life is so important is if we are not intentional, we will be selfish.

We got to work at this. What can I do to serve people instead of I wonder who in this next year is going to serve me? We're going to have to do a complete mind shift in that whole process, service over status. But a serve secondly, puts character over comfort. In other words, they do the right thing, whether they feel like doing or not. There are two kinds of people. There are the people that do what is right and then feel good. And there are some people who want to feel good before they do what is right. And if you want to feel good before you ever do what is right, you and I'll not do a lot of things right, because we'll let our emotions control it. But the moment that we say, no, I'm going to do the right thing, and then I'll let the emotion, I'll let the emotion fall. Character over comfort. Don't rely on position or title. You see, I learned a long time ago, if you're good, you don't need an introduction and you can tell you something if you're bad. A great introduction won't help you value people.

And that's the foundation of everything we're talking about. If I don't value people, I'll never add value to them. I'll manipulate 'em. I'll do all kinds of bad things. But all begins with valuing people. Believe in people value. People unconditionally love people. If you'll just do those three things, you'll have an incredible ministry. The moment that we really have a desire to add value to other people our whole life, we'll begin to change.