



The faithful servant

Jon Seaton

Characteristics of a real servant

- Make themselves available to serve
- Pay attention to needs
- Do the best with what they have
- Do every task with equal dedication
- Faithful in their ministry
- Maintain a low profile
- Think more about others than themselves
- Base their identity in Christ
- Think of ministry as an opportunity, not an obligation

A true leader of God's people, must be a true servant of God's people

Why serve?

- **God has asked us to!** - we are here to give and he's given us work to do; *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do;* Eph 2:9-10
- **It isn't optional,** the rest of the church body needs you! - the body of Christ; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26
- Service: SHAPE
- Greatness = service

Biblical examples of servants

- **Jesus himself – the servant king. Washing the disciples' feet;** John 13:1-20
- **David – A man after God's heart ;** 1 Samuel 16-
- **The Parable of the Talents;** 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'; Matthew 25:14-30
- **Jesus and Peter's mother-in-law;** When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him; Matthew 8:14-15

What is faith?

- Faith is a fictional character who first appeared in JLA #69 (October 2002).
- Faith is the fourth album by British alternative rock band The Cure, released in 1981 (see 1981 in music).
- Faith is the third album by country artist Faith Hill, released in 1998 (see 1998 in music).
- Faith was Faith Evans's debut album. It was released on Bad Boy Records in 1995.
- Faith is George Michael's first solo album which was released in 1987. The album hit number 1 on the Billboard charts and it was the first album by a white solo artist to hit number 1 on the R&B charts.
- Faith is a fictional character from the television series Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Angel, played by Eliza Dushku.

Faith and service

- Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see; Heb 11:1-2
- There is an important connection between faith and good works (service)
- “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do; Eph 2:8-10
- **We still therefore need faith first and foremost – good works alone aren’t sufficient.**
- **Martin Luther – 16th Century - ... Therefore all works, no matter how good they are and how pretty they look, are in vain if they do not flow from grace.**

Faith and service

- Faith requires us to go
- Faith requires us to take God at his word and requires our trust
- Faith requires us to see beyond our circumstances and live outside our comfort zone
- Faith requires us to be patient

Do I need to be perfect to serve?

- In short, no.
- Be realistic - we are all anointed as sinners
- God knows our failures, but still calls us
- We need to get to the place where we are happy to do any job, no matter how large or small
- Find your Godly gifts
- Body of Christ; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26
- 'be a good failure'

Pushing the boundaries

- Exceeding expectations
- Using our initiative
- Using the gifts God has given us and trying out other gifts we feel we might have
- BUT- keep a balance!

Where can I serve?

- NTT Based programmes
 - Outreach
 - In house
- Wider church programmes
- Community programmes
- **You don't need a programme to serve!**

Therefore...

- It is about servanthood and faith – we need to exercise both
- Using our initiative
- Using the gifts God has given us and trying out other gifts we feel we might have
- You aren't expected to be perfect – no-one can be