



**JESUS ON...
SERVANTHOOD**

RMPP EVENT 38

SCHEDULE

Welcome and Zoom Etiquette

Opening Prayer

Speaker Introduction

Message: *Jesus On...Servanthood*

Q&A and Discussion

Breakout Rooms

Closing Prayer

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JESUS ON... SERVANTHOOD

SYNOPSIS

How do you understand servanthood? What does being a servant of God or even a servant leader mean to you? Some may feel that being a servant signifies weakness or something to avoid altogether. But Jesus came to serve; therefore, so should we. So how do we do that?

| **Audio Link:** <https://on.soundcloud.com/AedFD>

| **Scripture Reflection**

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - *Mark 10:45 (NLT)*

“Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.” - *Psalms 100:2 (NJKV)*

EVENT

38

| *Personal Reflection*

1. Jesus did not come to earth to be served - but to serve. There are many places in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) where Jesus shows us how to serve. Which story about Jesus serving others comes to your mind right now?
2. Jesus' attitude towards others was so loving, kind and compassionate. Do you lead with these attributes? Pray for God's help in these areas.

| *Personal Application*

1. Serving another person out of love for Jesus is not natural for us. We need the power of the Holy Spirit. With the help of the Holy Spirit - how can you better serve those you lead?
2. God has called each of us to serve Him in some capacity. Do you know what gifts He's given you? How can you use those gifts to serve others?

| *Recommended Reading*

Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian in Community: by *Dietrich Bonehoffer*

In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership: by *Henri Nouwen*

A WORD FROM...

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This devotional booklet is all about Jesus On...Servanthood. By the time you finish reading through and discussing this booklet we hope you will have a keener idea of how to apply servanthood to your own life and encourage others to do the same.

We as men need to be intentional about applying servanthood to our lives as Jesus followers. The opposite of servanthood is selfishness. It's easy to be selfish because that is our natural tendency as a citizen of this world. We are born into sin and have lots of experience being selfish. When we take our eyes off ourselves and look to the needs of others - that is when we make this world a better place.

This pursuit of servanthood is not something we develop on our own - we need help. First, we have the example of Jesus in the New Testament. Other examples are the Apostle Paul's work with the Gentile believers. After the Holy Spirit is given to the disciples they exhibit a keen servant's heart towards those they lead and work with. Old Testament examples

include Eliezar, the chief manservant of Abraham (Genesis 24). Rebekah in Genesis 24 also shows servanthood, most of the good kings (I & II Kings) of Judah and Israel exhibited a love and servanthood toward the people.

Fellow believers at the international school where I work exhibit servanthood. Teachers have to raise their own support before they come and work at the school. The school doesn't pay a salary so that the tuition costs of the school are affordable for children of missionaries to attend. Missionaries do not make a lot of money and it's expensive to send kids to an international school! It's amazing how differently the staff here treat the students when money is not a factor for teaching here.

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you...” is known as The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31). Having this mindset in the different roles God has given you is a great way to make the world a better place. “We love because He first loved us.” (I John 4:19) We cannot serve others without the help of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We owe it to ourselves and to those we love and work with to serve them as Jesus served us. Ask the Lord to help you in this area - He will if you trust Him!

Mike B. Wood

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

DEVOTIONAL 1

The Bible refers to believers as “servants of God.” Child of God - yes! Man of God -yes! But a servant of God - is it something I must be or only a suggestion? Are you ready for what the Bible says?

I will never forget looking at a picture of my great grandpa “Milton.” My grandpa told me how Milton worked on a farm. I thought, that’s so awesome my great grandpa Milton was a farmer. That wasn’t the case. He was the servant of the farmer. “We didn’t get paid in money, but the farmer let us have a roof over our heads and all the food we could eat,” said my grandpa. This really bothered me. I thought to myself, how could this farmer not pay my family? How could they be servants to someone who didn’t care enough to compensate them for all their hard work? The word servant made me bitter to say the least.

That word holds so many meanings to so many people. To some, servant comes across as belittling or demeaning. Some

see it as a title of weakness. Some see it as a place holder until the next thing comes along or until they get their next promotion. Servants are regarded as people who are indebted to someone or something. The way you view a word will be the very thing that gives you the perspective on how this word can be used as a label in your life. Let me ask you this. How do you see this word “servant”? How do you feel about this word? The real question is, what does God’s Word tell us about it?

Mark 9:35 says: “Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’”

Here is my problem when I read this verse. If I am always putting myself last, how can I ever get ahead? I read this verse and it brings up those feelings of bitterness from Milton being an unpaid servant on a farm. I wasn’t looking at the word through the eyes of Jesus. I was looking at the word through my flesh. Jesus is talking to these men that call him master. They are His servants. They were not paid a salary; they were not given anything. Jesus asked them to give up everything to follow Him. But He didn’t ask them to do anything that He wasn’t going to do.

“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,

and to give his life as a ransom for many.” - Matthew 20:28

Jesus came to earth and gave his life so that we may have our debt of sin paid in full. When we place our trust in him, when we make him Lord of our lives, everything changes. It has to change. The way we live out this word “servant” is so much more than a devotional. It has to become who we are.

“When we come to Christ, we’re no longer the most important person in the world to us; Christ is. Instead of living only for ourselves, we have a higher goal: to live for Jesus.” - Billy Graham

More about Milton... my grandpa was the youngest child of 10 kids, and great grandpa Milton ran out of names for the kids. So, my Pa didn’t have a name. They just called him “little boy.” You remember that farmer that he used to work for? That same farmer is the one, the very one that gave my Pa his name. He was the first one to ever call him Milton Jr. That name stuck and my father was named Milton. Now, I sit here as the 4th Milton in our family. That farmer changed the identity of our family and it was only because my family served him.

If we truly love Jesus, we must serve God and we must serve others. When we do this, we have something that no money

could ever buy. We have our identity in Christ.

The word “servant” is the word we have to apply to our life on a daily basis. Because a price was paid for us and now, we have a new identity in Christ. You are forgiven. You are set free. Now go live a life of servanthood for God and others. You will be first because you will put yourself last.

Shane has been in ministry for over 15 years. From traveling the world as a missionary, church planter, lead pastor and now in business ministry, Shane’s passion is to reach men far from Christ with the Gospel.

| ***Discussion Questions***

1. How can you apply this to your identity?
2. Where do you need to serve or serve more?
3. What are the masters in your life right now that you are allowing to define who you are?

| ***Read***

1 Corinthians 15:58

| ***Reflect on This***

“One of the principal rules of religion is, to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbor; which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us.” - *John Wesley*

I DON'T WANT TO BE ONE!

DEVOTIONAL 2

“Who wants to be a servant?” If asked this question, we may want to avoid raising our hands. But do we have a choice as followers of Jesus? Instead of saying, “I don’t want to be one!” the better response may be, “How can I be a faithful one?” Are you willing to be a faithful servant?

“There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did what his father wanted?” – Matthew 21:28-30 NIV

“If I am not a servant to others, by process of elimination I am then a servant to myself. And that serves no one.” – Craig D. Lounsbrough

Have you ever been a reluctant servant? Has God ever called you to “work in the vineyard” and for some reason you found

it very difficult to say yes? What makes it difficult for you to be a surrendered servant of Christ?

For me, it was the fear of vulnerability. Heroes seem invincible. We forget about their struggle as we focus on their victory. Servanthood requires risk, humility, and meekness. It doesn't seem victorious at all. Servants receive no earthly guarantees that their efforts will be rewarded or even noticed. Sometimes it's hard to focus on the truth that our rewards are in Heaven, that whatever we've done "for the least of these" we've done for Jesus (Matthew 25:40).

We may be called to serve those who aren't thankful, who can't pay us back, and who may even take advantage of us. Add to that childhood wounds that taught us that those who should be the safest people in our lives are sometimes those who cause the most pain. Thus, our hearts and minds perceive messages that tell us servanthood can be dangerous.

There were three main times when the Lord called me to a particular time of servanthood. The first was when I was a relatively new Christian and was asked to join the mid-week speaking rotation at my local church. I was afraid I would mess it up. I didn't feel like I was as good as the other speakers, and was afraid I'd be rejected.

The second was when the Lord called me to share my deepest, darkest secret with others. He wanted me to share how He delivered me from homosexuality and helped me to embrace sexual purity. I was afraid that if anyone knew what I struggled with in the past – and am sometimes tempted by in the present – they would run for the door.

The third is when He called me to spend an extended amount of time on the mission field and away from my regular ministry. Each of these experiences had their moments of trials and triumphs. Each of these experiences called me to lay my fears and insecurities on the cross and follow Christ. They taught me that as I lay my life down in servanthood to the King, He not only blesses those I serve, He gives me the incredible privilege of seeing Him bless others. Holy intimacy grows in our hearts. That makes servanthood well worth the risks.

Maybe you've been there. Maybe you're there right now. Is the Lord calling you to servanthood in a way that exposes your deepest vulnerabilities and fears? Are you worried that you'll miss out on something good as you give up your own dreams and serve others?

In those times of uncertainty, we can take comfort in the words of Jesus in Matthew 16:24-25, "Whoever wants to be

my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”

Although servanthood may come with no earthly guarantee, God promises us a great eternal reward.

Dan is the Executive Director of Reconciliation Ministries of Michigan. He is an ordained minister and licensed professional counselor specializing in helping people overcome sexual brokenness, sexual abuse, and trauma. Dan has been in the ministry for over thirty years and lives with his wife, Marianne, in Metro Detroit, Michigan, USA.

| ***Discussion Questions***

1. Are you currently resisting God's call to servanthood in any area of your life?
2. What makes it difficult for you to surrender and be a servant?
3. What were your experiences in the past with servanthood?

| ***Read***

1 Peter 4:2

| ***Reflect on This***

“Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.” -
Peter Marshall

WHAT WILL OTHERS THINK OF ME?

DEVOTIONAL 3

What others think of us is a powerful thought that paralyzes even the strongest people. And when it comes to servanthood, we may avoid it altogether because we perceive that others will see us as weak. Are you concerned about how others will see you?

We live in a world where showing signs of weakness and preferring others is not always thought of as favorable and it makes us hesitant when it comes to serving others. We find ourselves spending a lot of time thinking about the inner things going on within us. How would others have done this...how will this look to others...the worries of feeling weak. But when you study the life of Jesus, you start to realize that He never lost sight of who He was with the Father, always remaining focused on the tasks at hand.

In the 1980's when I first accepted Christ, I don't remember a lot of teaching in the area of serving others. I never really gave it much thought until many years later in 2008. That's when the Katrina hurricane hit Louisiana and the surrounding

areas. Our church at the time had boots on the ground early on through an affiliate church of the same denomination. It was during the cleanup stage of our church outreach. I joined one of the 15 different teams our church sent down there to serve the local communities. Our main job consisted of completely gutting and cleaning out the house that had been flooded during the storm and the eventual flooding caused by the breached levees. The houses sat closed up for a long time with everything still left inside so there was mold damage everywhere.

Each morning we traveled in teams to a different neighborhood. Once in a while a homeowner would be there to greet us, but for the most part we were the only ones out there because of the mold and contaminants inside each home. The first thing we did was change into these hazmat suits, boots, goggles and air respirators. For the rest of the day, I felt very isolated from the world. It was hot and the work was hard. At times, I felt like I was all alone. We had this motto we adopted during our time down there: “For an audience of One.” There was hardly anyone else around us, we weren’t bothered about how other people might think of us. We were doing this with a heart to please only Jesus. That week of serving others became a valuable lesson for me on servanthood.

Since then, I've found the quieter, less public acts of serving others far less stressful for me. It allows less chances for worry about what others might be thinking.

I guess due to my quiet nature and being an introvert, I've always had an easier time preferring others and going along with the ideas and plans of people I've surrounded myself with. This carries over to the many ministries I've been involved in. I think my role in the background has always been an integral part of the team, and beneficial to the goals at hand.

However, even after knowing all that, servanthood can become a two-edged sword. By focusing on what others might think, we lose sight of the reasons for serving people in the first place. I've found that searching for little ways to serve others, even those that go unnoticed, will take away the pressure that tends to consume and at times even paralyze us. If we embrace our weakness, it allows Jesus to work His glory through us. (1 Corinthians 12:10: That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.) And to do the things He's set forth to accomplish through us.

When I feel that I'm being pushed out of my comfort zone. In those times of hesitation and worry of what others might

think of me. Those are the times when I press into giving up control over the circumstances and the final results of any situation. Let God be the big picture. Take comfort in every act of surrender. For He knows the hidden potential in all of us. It's at those times I have to remember...

I'm here for an audience of One.

Steve is a YWAM alumnus and has been a supporter of The MST Project since 2008. After years of traveling the world as a quiet warrior, he now finds himself in a season of grandkids, spending time with his grown children and his wife, Carol.

| **Discussion Questions**

1. Do you allow God to push you out of your comfort zone? If not, why?
2. Do you have a teachable moment or scripture study that's helped you and might help others become a better servant?
3. How easy is it for you to accept the Biblical view of weakness?

| **Read**

2 Corinthians 12:9

| **Reflect on This**

“Deny your weakness, and you will never realize God’s strength in you.” - *Joni Eareckson Tada*

SERVANTHOOD IS OUTDATED!

DEVOTIONAL 4

We live in modern times, and many believe that society today is far more advanced than when the Bible was penned. Might it be true that the call to be servants and live a life of servanthood is outdated? God is not forcing us to be servants but calling us to be servants with all its opportunities and titles.

- Self-care
- Self-help
- Self-determination
- Self-esteem

Do these terms sound familiar to you? This day and age is filled with focus on the self. It is no wonder that our worldly mindset thinks that “servanthood and service for others is old fashioned, I need to take care of myself first.” These four “selves” that I just listed are not in and of themselves evil or wrong. In fact, our postmodern influence has had some benefits as far as encouraging people to be healthy, whole, and stable in their

mental, physical, and spiritual health. However, the way our society goes about caring for ourselves well is opposite from what Christ has called us to by its rejection of servanthood.

Let's look at what the Word of God has to say about us being formed into servants. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (ESV) says, "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this, that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." Further on in verse 17 we are told that "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come." Therefore, foundational to our understanding of servanthood is that we no longer live for ourselves but for Christ, and we ought to glorify God in all we do (1 Corinthians 10:31).

This Christian foundation is exactly what the world is missing. Those in the world live entirely to themselves, for themselves, maximizing their attempt at happiness in this short life here on earth (Ephesians 2:1-3). They will use any means, including a heavy emphasis on self and the rejection of servanthood to achieve their end. However, we in Christ have been called to a different hope. Our hope is an incomparably better living hope where we will be with Jesus, enjoying him and loving and worshipping him forever and ever, and where one day will

be better than thousands anywhere else (Psalm 84:10). We are told that “He who did not withhold his only son, how will he not also with him give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). And because of this hope, we now follow the example of Christ, who “came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). So therefore, not only is death to ourselves foundational to servanthood, it is also the hope of the resurrection (Romans 6:5).

With death to ourselves and being alive in Christ, and hoping in the resurrection of the dead through Christ, how can we really be better servants? Does it really help to tell myself, “You no longer live to yourself, but to Christ” when I see an opportunity to serve in church in a capacity that costs me something? In fact, I think it does! Our call as Christians is not to try to strong arm ourselves to just do the things that we really don’t want to do (although sometimes the Christian life can feel like that!). Instead, our call is to have a renewed mind in Christ (Romans 12:2) which will cause us to see the joy of serving the Lord as more life-giving and satisfying than serving our sinful desires of selfishness. I propose to you that as you continue to walk the walk of the Christian life, spending time in the Word of God, and fixing your mind not on things on earth but on the things of heaven (Colossians 3:2), you will experience a transformation into servanthood that you

could've never achieved yourself. Likewise, your experience with Jesus will be better than you could've ever imagined.

So then, is caring for yourself bad? Does servanthood mean that you never think of yourself and try to kill every desire of having a happy life in this world because it's the 'Christian thing to do?' Does Jesus tell us to deny ourselves as an end in itself? Not at all! What the gospel shares is that Jesus is a better hope. Through denying ourselves of small, little pursuits of temporary happiness through selfishness and self-focus, we receive eternal, deep, lasting joy in Christ that overflows into a lifestyle of servanthood. Christian servanthood is not old or outdated, instead it is a path to receiving deeper, lasting happiness in the Lord that the world could never offer.

Peter has been a part of RMPP since 2019 after six months of serving with The MST Project in Thailand as part of a college internship. He currently works on his family farm in Alberta, Canada, where he continues to serve the Lord.

| ***Discussion Questions***

1. Have you ever tried to serve others out of your own sense of duty rather than a joyful service for Christ?
2. Can you think of areas in your life where you should focus less on yourself and more on others for Christ's sake?
3. Do you see Christian servanthood as a path to deeper joy in Christ?

| ***Read***

Acts 20:35

| ***Reflect on This***

“I did not regret anything much; but I'll say one thing: leading a life committed to service does protect the soul from wounds. These are the workings of God.” - *Ruth Pfau*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SERVE OTHERS?

DEVOTIONAL 5

What does it look like to serve others? Are you supposed to serve your spouse and children or only those in higher positions than you? Do you serve when only you feel like it, or is it more of a lifestyle? Are your life and relationships ready for these answers?

Servanthood is necessary in the Christian life. Servanthood, when done with the heart posture pointing towards the Lord, is one of many ways Christ lives through us. The goal of Christian life is to reflect the love of Christ by being transformed into His likeness, thus being a servant to others. As Christians, we are called to serve the Lord first.

The Lord has given me an innate gift to serve my wife and children as a servant-hearted leader. So how do I effectively serve my family? With the right heart posture, the Holy Spirit within me bears the fruit (of the Spirit) for others to consume. When I allow the Holy Spirit to work within me and represent the character of God, I naturally desire to serve others. This is possible when I submit control and fully give myself to the Lord. It becomes so natural: my tone is softer,

I'm approachable, I seek to understand, I radiate joy, I'm patient, and less selfish. For example, I find joy in taking time to do the important things my wife and children want to do instead of what I would rather be doing. This extends outside of my home to friends and those in my community. It brings a significance to my life that cannot be replicated outside of an authentic relationship with Christ. I don't want anything in return from those I serve; rather, I receive a blessing from the Lord that is so freeing. It's difficult to describe, but I'm sure you can relate if you've taken the opportunity to serve someone in need during a difficult time. When you decide to serve others above yourself, in that moment you receive a peace that can only come from the Lord. When we look to the cross, we see the ultimate servant leadership move Jesus made on our behalf and we have the perfect example of what it means to be a servant leader.

The more I pursue the Lord and His will for my life, being a servant is life giving, rewarding, and fulfilling. When my focus is not on Christ, serving is done out of reluctance, bitterness, or mere obligation. True servant leadership isn't cheap. What if the people you are called to serve reject you? I experienced this through a year-long separation from my wife and with that, my kids as well. I was torn. How could the Lord call me to serve someone who has rejected and abandoned me, with no certainty I would ever get them back? How could He ask this of me? Feelings of failure, unworthiness and loneliness consumed me. The pain was real and yet I was still called to

serve despite my feelings. Every day I had a choice to give in to my fleshly desires or chose to focus on Jesus and the actions He wants me to take. Each day was difficult. However, when I submitted myself to the Lord, died to self, and focused on Him, somehow all that pain and hurt turned into motivation to serve my wife and kids well.

It took some time, but when I began to put them first instead of putting me first, that's when Jesus really started working on my heart. My thoughts and heart turned into hope, the fear subsided, and I found freedom in the pain and struggle. I truly believe Jesus was waiting for me to die to myself to allow room for Him to come in and repair some of those dark spots within my heart. This was a daily choice. I wish I could say I chose the Lord each day, but I didn't. When I didn't focus on Him, I was only inflicting the pain I was feeling on my family and making things worse. The Holy Spirit showed me my responsibility to serve no matter the circumstance. This was my opportunity to be a true servant leader and love my wife no matter what. Although I never want to experience a situation like this again, I don't regret going through it. Through this my wife and I grew closer together in the Lord and are stronger because of it. We are both broken and need a Savior. Jesus used a tough situation for good and for His glory.

Jesus is very aware of everything I felt and fought through as he lived through this Himself. Jesus was rejected, abandoned, and eventually crucified. Yet even on the cross He was praying

for those who persecuted Him. That's the beautiful thing about Jesus, its who He was and is. Jesus ultimately served us a gift on the cross and it's up to you and me to accept or reject it.

Joel is a husband and father of three. Residing in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area, he works in healthcare real-estate and property management.

| ***Discussion Questions***

1. Are you hungry to serve Jesus?
2. Are you willing to serve those who hurt you?
3. Are you reflecting the fruit of the Spirit?

| ***Read***

Ephesians 5:21

| ***Reflect on This***

“The measure of a man’s greatness is not the number of servants he has, but the number of people he serves.” - *John Hagee*

SERVING LIKE JESUS...ARE YOU WILLING?

DEVOTIONAL 6

We all know that Jesus came to serve and not to be served, but that was Jesus, not you! Just because He served, does that mean you have to serve others too? The question may not be whether it is possible or if you can - but if you will?

Over my lifetime, I have played many roles: section leader in the army during Operation Desert Storm, teacher and administrator in public and private education, husband, and dad. Although each role has its unique expectations, each role requires aspects of both serving and leading. As an NCO in the Army, you lead a section while being accountable to your platoon sergeant. In school, even the head of school must give account to the school board. In my family, I must be accountable as well. In every case, we ultimately answer to God as our supreme authority.

In Luke 22:25-27, Jesus tells his disciples, “And He said to them, the kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those

who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.”^vOf all men throughout history who sat in positions of authority, Jesus Christ, more than anyone, could claim his role as a leader and exercise authority over those around him.^vYet, he chose to step aside, to serve those he encountered, all the way to the cross.

While we are not the Son of God, we are indeed sons of God if we have accepted Christ as our personal Savior. That means we have chosen to give everything we are and have to him – not just out of respect, but as an act of worship. Remember, brother, everything we do here on earth is a dress rehearsal for what we will do in heaven for eternity in God’s amazing presence. As Christ came “not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45), we also get to serve others. God puts us in roles in order to practice serving others, while at the same time serving Him to accomplish God’s Will. How do we accomplish this?

Pray. Communication with God allows us to hear directly from Him and know His will.

Seek. Reading God’s Word on a regular basis will give us the instructions we need to carry out His will.

Serve. Apply the Word we read to our own lives first, then to others as we serve them.

Service will take on many appearances. It may be spiritual – praying with and for others in need. It may be emotional, as we walk through difficult times with a brother in Christ. Or, it may be physical, literally using our hands and feet to help someone move, fix their car, or paint their house (or any number of tasks involving physical labor).

It all begins with a willingness to serve God. As Christians, our lives are no longer ours, but are available to be used here on earth as vessels for our Heavenly Father. When we pray to be used, we must be specific and intentional as we submit completely to what God will call us to. As we seek, we look for specific instruction from God as to how he wants us to carry out the mission. Then, as we serve, we do so with a joyous heart, praising God in worship to Him for the opportunity to practice heavenly service here on earth.

Winston Churchill once said “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

A life built around serving ourselves will end in emptiness, regret, and unfulfillment. We may accumulate much, maybe even make a name for ourselves for a time, but when we draw our final breath, it all stays behind.

A life built around serving God and others brings true joy, because we take what God gives us, and give it to others as a blessing and act of worship to our Creator. How will you serve and be a blessing to others today?

Bill has served in education for the past 30 years, and is currently the Head of School at Richmond Christian School in Virginia, where he resides with his wife and two boys.

| ***Discussion Questions***

1. What can interfere with our ability to lead others by serving them?
2. How does Christian servant leadership run contrary to the secular leadership model?
3. When you take your final breath here on Earth, what is the main thing you want people to remember about you?

| ***Read***

Luke 22:26

| ***Reflect on This***

“I believe the bottom line in leadership isn’t how far we advance ourselves but how far we advance others. That is achieved by serving others and adding value to their lives.” -

John Maxwell

LOOKING BACK...

DEVOTIONALS 1-6

During this connect group cycle, we pray that you have been challenged, encouraged, and inspired as you pursue greater sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity in your life. We want to encourage you to now take some time to reflect on the last six devotionals and see how you can consistently apply the many truths that have been shared and that you have learned in your life.

Devotional 1

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life?

Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 2

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life?

Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 3

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life?

Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 4

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life?

Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 5

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life?

Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 6

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life?

Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

FAST AND PRAY FOR YOUR WIFE

Each month, we encourage you to set aside a time to fast and pray for your wife (or future wife) for one or all of the following points. As husbands (and future husbands) commit to praying and fasting for their wives (and future wives), we can see significant spiritual breakthroughs happen and spiritual legacies created.



Serve Her

My wife is not a project I need to work on or change; instead, I want to serve her better as her husband, lover, and friend.

Love Her

I want to love and support my wife better so that our marriage reflects Christ's love for the Church.

Honor Her

I want to honor my wife's emotions better by being a safe place where she can freely share her feelings without my trying to solve every problem.

Respect Her

I want to respect my wife better by learning to appreciate her unique talents, gifts, and perspectives. Couples should complement one another and not compete with each other.

Listen to Her

I want to be a better listener. I want to listen to my wife with my heart and not just my ears.

INTRODUCING RMPP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

| *What Is RMPP?*

Real Men Pursuing Purity (RMPP) is a community of men who are committed to growing in integrity, purity and wholeness through relevant teachings, accountability, mentoring and honest dialogue. You might not be sure that you really need to be part of a community like this because you don't struggle with compulsive addictions or sexual sin. While it is very important for many men to focus primarily on resisting sexual temptation and sin, we want to inspire and challenge you to pursue more. Although growing in purity is a big part of the vision for RMPP, it's much more than that. It's also learning about deep-rooted insecurities, developing proper work boundaries, embracing our identity in Christ, confronting fears and anxiety, expressing ourselves emotionally in a healthy way, and pursuing holiness in a safe environment with like-minded brothers. We believe that when we invite Him into these areas, He will extend His healing hand and bring about wholeness. Max Lucado says this very well.

EST. 2014

“Our Savior kneels down and gazes upon the darkest acts of our lives. But rather than recoil in horror, he reaches out in kindness and says, “I can clean that if you want.”

We are men who are not willing to settle for a life of spiritual mediocrity. We choose to relentlessly pursue greater depths of purity and wholeness for ourselves and for our families. Welcome to the RMPP community.

| How does RMPP support the local church?

RMPP does not intend to replace or represent a church; it only creates a safe place for men who want to stay active in their own church community. When a man joins the RMPP community he joins other like-minded men who desire to pursue greater spiritual growth and Christlikeness. He is choosing to walk out in greater honesty and vulnerability. He is choosing to pursue purity in all aspects of his life. Aspects such as deep-rooted insecurities, developing proper work boundaries, embracing

our identity in Christ, confronting fears and anxiety, expressing ourselves emotionally in a healthy way, and pursuing holiness in a safe environment.

We then pray that as these men grow in greater Christlike maturity that they would influence their families. That they would impact their communities and their work places, and that they would be an example for other men in their home church. We believe that as men take hold of the awesome and holy call to live lives that reflect Christ, that the church will be inspired and the world will take notice.

| *What happens next?*

If you have ever attended a men's retreat, you probably remember being deeply impacted by worship, challenged by teaching, and being in community with many men who shared your excitement and enthusiasm for growth and change. A few weeks or months down the road, the gathering became a distant memory as you settled back into the routines of daily life. We don't want to create just another mountain top experience. We are committed to creating a long-term mentoring relationship for everyone who attends an event. That is why you are holding this devotional book in your hands. As you flip through these pages you will see that there

are devotionals with corresponding questions. Each devotional is meant to solidify the teaching of the event by encouraging and challenging you, as well as helping to stimulate discussion through thought provoking questions, verses and quotes.

| ***Who writes the devotionals?***

Christian men from around the world have written these devotionals and have overcome real issues in their life through God's grace, goodness, mercy and love. We hope and pray that their testimonies and stories inspire, challenge and point you to Christ.

| ***What are RMPP connect groups?***

RMPP connect groups are a safe place for men to pursue both purity and wholeness within an environment of peer support and encouragement. The journey to greater purity and wholeness is a journey that involves inviting other men to walk alongside of you. It is a place where you can share your prayer requests, victories, and struggles and where you can be heard, prayed for and challenged to grow in all areas of life. A connect group is designed to be a support system for you for as long as you want.

During your time in a connect group you will be:

Challenged: You will be challenged to grow in your love for Biblical truth. The men in your group will challenge you to grow in your knowledge and application of God's Word thereby enabling you to stand firm in the midst of life's trials.

Encouraged: You will be encouraged to persevere when life, work, and numerous responsibilities may seem overwhelming. The men in your group will support you through prayer, encouragement and a listening ear.

Inspired: You will be inspired to pursue greater spiritual growth and Christlikeness. While pursuing Christlikeness may not always be easy, it will also be worth it. The men in your group will be there to inspire you on that journey.

Accountable: The men in your group, as well as your group leader, will support you and hold you accountable as you pursue greater freedom and victory. Be assured that whatever you share in your group will be strictly confidential.

| *When are the events held?*

RMPP events are held online 4x a year in February, May, August, and November.

| *Who can attend?*

RMPP events are open to all men worldwide.

| *What about privacy?*

Because of the sensitive nature of RMPP events, video or audio recording by participants is not allowed. Also, details of personal testimonies are not to be published via email, social media, or in any other form. Thank you for contributing to a safe and secure environment that helps build honesty and vulnerability.

| *Who started RMPP?*

Real Men Pursuing Purity was founded in 2014. RMPP is a joint initiative of The MST Project and New Counseling Service.

MEET THE TEAM

THE MST GLOBAL BOARD

Christian Lenty is the founder and director of The MST Project, a ministry that seeks to mentor men into a pursuit of sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity. Christian has lived in Thailand for over 22 years and resides in Bangkok with his wife.

Rex DeKoning is the 60-year old husband and father of a large family. A former nurse and pastor, he now works in Thailand with New Counseling Service as a counselor. Rex has experienced great healing of addictive behaviors after he confessed everything and began to live an accountable life. Rex is highly motivated to inspire other men to seek out a mentor, as it has helped him to walk freely, build honesty and vulnerability.

Nick Chilver is married and is part of a blended family containing 6 children. He is grateful for the people God has brought into his life and across his path. And as he continues to learn to better reflect Him, it is his prayer that God will grant

him the privilege of helping others on the path to freedom and into the Light. He resides in Thailand with his wife.

Roger Mitiska and his wife are retired and living in Thailand. They are members of Evangelical Church of Bangkok. Greatly blessed by God, Roger desires to be used by Him to assist others in walking with Jesus. Roger's passion is Christian discipleship through understanding God's Word and applying it to everyday living.

Mike B. Wood is married to his wonderful wife of 28 years. He is a Pastoral Counselor in the area of sexual recovery therapy. He is a man in process, passionate about bringing men together to share life together. This is where we study God's Word together and share the challenges we face. This inspires us to accept what God has freely given us: His love, mercy, grace and acceptance. He and his wife have lived in Thailand for 18 years.

RESOURCES

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

| *New Counseling Service*

New Counseling Service provides counseling and therapy for individuals and families in Bangkok. NCS provides services for expatriates as well as for locals.

W: ncsbkk.com

E: newcounselingservice@gmail.com

| *Pathway To Purity*

The book, Pathway to Purity, is meant to transform your way of thinking about purity, taking you through an initial 16 sessions of encouraging, challenging and application of the material. Pathway to Purity will transform the way you think and live, putting you on a lifetime path of purity and wholeness leading to consistent victory.

W: themstproject.com/pathway-to-purity

E: hello@themstproject.com

THANK YOU

| *With Gratitude*

We would like say thank you to the following for their contribution to RMPP.

Financial Donors

Thank you for generously providing funding that allows for RMPP events, seminars, and translation of materials.

Devotional Authors

Thank you for writing devotionals that inspire, encourage and challenge each of us to pursue greater sexual purity, spiritual wholeness and Christlike maturity.

| *Scriptural Oversight Team*

RMPP has a Scriptural Oversight Team consisting of several pastors from local churches that review all devotionals for theological integrity.

CONNECT GROUPS

RMPP connect groups are a safe place for men to pursue sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity within an environment of peer support, encouragement, and accountability.

Connect groups are held worldwide on a weekly basis. To inquire about joining a group or to find out more information please email hello@themstproject.com.

If you are interested in starting an RMPP connect group at your church, men's ministry, Bible study, college group, etc., please contact us. We'd love to support you and have the resources to help you.

A photograph of two men in a bright, indoor setting. The man on the left is wearing a plaid shirt and holding a white mug. The man on the right is wearing a white button-down shirt. Both are smiling and looking towards each other. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**JOIN ONE
TODAY!**

AUGUST 2023