

➤ Look for RPMS where God actually wants to bless (make full, good, Lk 2:52)

- **R**elationally (family, friends, work)...
 - 1/3 of children aren't raised with their dad, and 45% are below the poverty line
 - Loneliness- fewer friends, isolated, lost spouse or pet
 - 70% are not engaged in their job
 - Need a cause, purpose
 - Other relational needs I see-
- **P**hysically (health, finances, sleep, addictions)...
 - Diabetes, heart disease, cancer...
 - 40% of Americans don't have \$400 in savings
 - Our bodies generally need 9 hours sleep, but we get 6.5-7.5
 - Addictions- drug, alcohol, sex, pornography, shopping, eating...
 - Other physical needs I see-
- **M**entally (worry, anger, wrong thoughts) ...
 - Depression rate tripled during Covid
 - Teenage suicide increased 56%- Covid, social media (many teens check their phones every hour or 2 through the night)
 - Other mental needs I see-
- **S**piritually (hunger for God, 10 commandments, faith)
 - 87% of Americans say they believe in God
 - 87?% don't regularly go to church
 - Eternity- in heaven & a new earth, hell- pain, sorrow, fire, worms
 - Other spiritual needs I see-

❖ **WHAT'S GOD SAYING TO YOU?** – write it down, pray it back, share it with others!

Heavenly Father, You are so kind, loving, merciful. Meeting the needs of the both the good and bad, washing the feet of even Judas. Open my eyes to see people as valuable, with real needs and concerns. Slow me down to listen. Give me faith & love to serve. I want it to be my lifestyle. I especially feel You saying to me...

B.L.E.S.S.- SERVE

4/3/22, Jn 13

5 EVERYDAY WAYS TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR & CHANGE THE WORLD!

- **B**- Begin with Prayer – 5 Friends
- **L**- Listen
- **E**- Eat
- **S**- Serve
- **S**- Share your Story

Pray for your friends for Easter- 4/17!

GETTING OUR FEET WET-

It happened at the dumpster

DIVING INTO SCRIPTURE – John 13:1-17 – Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet

CULTURE- WASHING FEET WAS

1. Expected- made available by the host
2. Needed-
3. Menial- only _____ slaves were expected to do it

BEFORE JESUS WASHED FEET HE KNEW...

1. W_____ He was
2. W_____ He was
3. W_____ He was going
4. Serving would not be s_____
 - Judas
 - Peter
 - Disciples
5. What should we know? - a lesson from 3 Turkish believers

JESUS TOLD US TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE

1. Are we greater than Jesus?
2. We will be blessed if we do
3. And we will bless others too

TWO DANGERS ABOUT SERVING

1. T_____ people to trust Christ = manipulation
 - Service without I_____ means nothing, & love without service means nothing
 - 1 Cor 13³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.
 - L_____ without service means nothing
 - 1 Jn 3¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.
 - Truth without i_____ means nothing
 - 2 Cor 2¹⁷ You see, we are not like the many hucksters who preach for personal profit. We preach the word of God with sincerity and with Christ's authority, knowing that God is watching us. (NLT)
 - 1 Thes 2⁷ ...we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. ⁸We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too. (NLT)
 - Service is not a t_____ when done with genuine love and integrity, out of a lifestyle of service & joy
2. E_____ Credit, or essential?
 - Jesus & the Father model serving
 - Jesus- washes feet- Jn 13
 - The Father sends rain & mercy- Mt 5

Mt 5⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸Be perfect (loving, merciful), therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect (loving, merciful, Lk 6:36)

- Serving is who they are
Ps 68⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

- Serving is commanded & expected- from the OT through the NT
 - Lev 19:18 Love your neighbor as yourself.
 - Micah 6⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
 - Lk 10³⁶ "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. ³⁷The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."
 - Jas 1²⁷ Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. (NLT)
 - 1 Jn 3¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ⁴ ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.
 - We're commanded to be welcoming, hospitable, generous, j_____ - "Be My Guest"
- Jesus promises to i_____ our serving
 - Mt 25- sheep & goats-⁴⁴ 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' ⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'
 - Lk 10 The good Samaritan- the priest & Levite did nothing bad
 - Lk 16- the rich man did not feed Lazarus- and went to hell
 - Lk 18- the Rich Young Ruler- kept the commandments except for helping the poor- Jesus- "How hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom"
 - Lk 19- With joy, Zacchaeus promises to give half to the poor, Jesus- "Today salvation has come"
- 3. Some conclusions
 - Serving is modeled, commanded, expected and will be inspected by Jesus
 - Therefore, serving is central, not optional nor a trick
 - Therefore, serving is the Christian's joyful way of life because...
 - People are needy & valuable- Mt 9
 - Serving is the right, loving & good thing to do- God's command- "Love your neighbor"
 - Serving is the very nature of God and of His children- Mt 5