



Serving When it is Difficult

John 19:38-41

The subject of serving seems so simple. Just go do something for someone. But as we are seeing through the lives illustrated in the Bible, there are layers and layers of serving. Often, the job that needs to be done is not pleasant. This lesson is about taking Jesus off the cross and burying Him. All four Gospels tell this story.

A. The Role of Joseph & Nicodemus (Mt 27:57-61; Mk 15:42-47; Lk 23:50-52; Jn 19:38-41)

- First, there was going to Pilate for permission: _____ Factor: what might have happened?
Second, there was taking the body off the cross: _____ Factor: what made this hard?
Third: there was preparing and burying the body: _____ Factor: what would they have thought?
Fourth: there was donating a new tomb: _____ Factor: what might Joseph's family say?

B. The difficulties connected to serving can keep one from getting involved

1. Some things are not solved _____ and _____
- instead, some situations are _____, require a lot of _____ and necessitates much _____
2. Some do not _____ with your getting involved and helping and this further _____ things
- those that put Jesus on the cross would not help taking Him off
3. Often a _____ conversation must take place before one can serve
- Joseph had to talk with Pilate first
4. Some are not _____ for what you do
- your efforts may not have been appreciated
- Lk 17:17 where are the nine?

Joseph is described as a "secret disciple for fear of the Jews." How did he overcome this to go before Pilate?

- What are some fears that we may have to overcome in order to serve?

What should you do when you see a need but no one has asked for help?

- Why are some timid about asking for help?

Two concerns in serving are becoming an enabler or the person becoming dependent upon us forever.

How do we keep those from happening?

