

Only You Can Be You

Day 15

APRON: Loving through Serving

For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. (Luke 22:24)

What do you think of when you picture someone wearing an apron? My thoughts immediately take me to a mother or grandmother cooking breakfast, lunch or dinner for their children or families. Your thoughts may be of a dad or grandfather doing the same. Whatever the picture the first words that come to mind are Love and Serve.

In day 15, Eric Rees talks about loving through serving. In the scripture, the disciples had been arguing about who was considered “greater.” So Jesus’ response makes it clear that in his Kingdom “greatness” is in humility and in service. Jesus is the great Servant. “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45; Matthew 20:28). Here we are witnessing the example, the model, we are to follow in order to fulfill God’s purpose for us.

Eric reminds us that Jesus did not come in the form the people were expecting. They were awaiting nobility, wealth – a king. Little did they know that he would come as a servant, lowly and humble to restore the rightful expectations of a “righteous King”. He says, “Like Jesus, our Messiah, we are here to serve. It is not about us, we’re not here for self-gratification but to serve others passionately.”

We are called to love our neighbors as Christ did and he did so sacrificially. Realizing that your life is not your own but it belongs to God and we should seek opportunities to serve others. How often do you begin your morning by asking God what you are to do with your day? Do you ever ask God to show you opportunities to serve or witness to someone today? God has blessed you with talents and gifts but wants to use them for reaching others.

Eric writes, “How can you use your uniqueness to lead like Jesus did? You begin by going out and looking for those people God has put in your life to lead and to love. What does sacrificial love and service look like on a daily basis? As parents, we love sacrificially, putting on the servant’s apron.” God is asking us to have a servant’s heart and lead a life focused on Jesus and Jesus’ desires for our lives.

Questions Eric asks us to ponder:

- What does sacrificial love and service look like on a daily basis?
- Am I partnering with God?
- What is my “contribution and calling?”
- How can I serve Jesus to others today?

As you ponder these questions pray this prayer.

Lord, I confess that I haven't thought of myself up to now as anyone's servant. In fact, there's something about that word that tends to rub me the wrong way at first. But when I think about the fact that you came as a servant, I see the word in a different light. You gave it honor and distinction. Because of your example, I long to live as a servant. Please show me how and help me fulfill the unique reason I am here on earth. When I think of the word apron, let me see in my mind a carpenter's apron- and help me to see that the carpenter is you.