

member or friend will look different. Because you will be serving them as a servant of Jesus.

So, I urge you to choose and put at the front of your mind, heart, and soul that you will serve Jesus moment-by-moment until your identity as a servant of Jesus becomes deeply engrained within you. But know that if you don't choose to actively serve Jesus daily that you will be serving someone or something else. You are a servant, not a master.

You gotta serve somebody – who or what will it be?

Friday

In preparation for Sunday worship, please read and reflect upon Matthew 6:25-34.

Devotional You Gotta Serve Somebody February 19, 2023

Monday

Read Matthew 6:24

“You may be an ambassador to England or France
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world
You might be a socialite with a long string of pearls

But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the Devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody

Might be a rock 'n' roll addict prancing on the stage
You might have drugs at your command, women in a cage
You may be a businessman or some high-degree thief
They may call you doctor or they may call you chief

You may be a state trooper, you might be a young Turk
You may be the head of some big TV network
You may be rich or poor, you may be blind or lame
You may be livin' in another country under another name

You may be a construction worker workin' on a home
Might be livin' in a mansion, you might live in a dome
You may own guns and you may even own tanks
You may be somebody's landlord, you may even own banks

You may be a preacher preaching spiritual pride
Maybe a city councilman takin' bribes on the side
May be working in a barbershop, you may know how to cut hair
You may be somebody's mistress, maybe somebody's heir

Might like to wear cotton, might like to wear silk
Might like to drink whiskey, might like to drink milk
Might like to eat caviar, you might like to eat bread
May be sleeping on the floor, sleepin' in a king-size bed

But you're gonna have to serve somebody
Yes indeed, you're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the Devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody." - Bob Dylan

When Jesus and Bob Dylan agree, we really should pay attention.

You were not made and are incapable of being the master. You are a servant. One way or another, you are a servant.

Are you a servant or a master? What does culture tell you? What does God tell you?

Tuesday

Read Hebrews 13:5

In America, we have a tendency to serve our possessions – our stuff. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld has a bit where he talks about how our homes are actually trash processing units. We buy stuff, get it home, and it exists in our living spaces. When we get tired of it, we put it in a cupboard or closet. Then eventually, we move it to the basement. Then it goes to the garage. And there's no coming back from the garage. From there, it completes its journey from shiny new object to trash.

But not always. There's always the self-storage unit. There are plenty of good reasons to have a self-storage unit – perhaps you are moving or remodeling the house – but the sheer numbers seem to tell us a different story about Americans and our stuff.

90% of the storage units in the world are in America. The country with the largest houses in the world appears to have the most need to pay for extra storage. This doesn't count the shed in the yard, these are self-storage units with companies that we rent out. 90%. Americans spend upwards of \$29 billion per year on self-storage at 51,000+ facilities with more than 2 billion square feet of space. Over 35 million households in the U.S. rent self-storage units.

We might be serving our stuff...

Jesus is telling us that if we want to serve God with Jesus as our savior, we can only serve God and that materialism is a huge barrier to serving God alone.

Why is materialism a barrier to serving God?

Wednesday

Read Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was tempted by materialism himself. When he was in the desert, Satan tempts Jesus with all the kingdoms of the world and all that is in them if Jesus will serve Satan. Jesus responds, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

Great possessions give us thoughts of having great security in this life... to the exclusion of life with Jesus.

How much of your day do you spend serving your possessions?

Thursday

Read Matthew 6:24

Get in the habit of consciously choosing who or what you will serve when you get up each morning. And then as many times during the day as necessary take a five-second pause and consider who you are serving.

If you are serving Jesus, the daily things that have caused you annoyance, confusion, and anxiety will begin to fall into a different perspective.

When you are consciously choosing to serve Jesus each day, your interactions and outlook with that annoying customer or vendor; boss, employee, or co-worker; student or administrator; family