

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 28 Jan 2024

Sermon Title : The Heart of Involvement

Speaker : Rev Reuben Ng

Text : Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 4:10

INTRODUCTION

We are in the middle of our Heart of F.A.I.T.H. sermon series where 'F' stands for Fellowship, 'A' stands for Adoration. Today our sermon will be on 'I' which stands for Involvement.

The universe is much bigger than we could imagine. There are many amazingly beautiful galaxies of different shapes and sizes in the universe, and they can be as far as millions of lightyears away. Why would God who created all these things, who is so powerful, be bothered to get involved with us mere humans who are just His creation? We know He is involved because the Bible says that in the beginning of creation, He walked in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. He spoke to Abraham, Isaac, led the Israelites through Moses and has been involved with humanity all the way. Some may suggest that God was not really interested in us but simply played with us like toys at arm's length. After a while, He moves on to other things. But that is not true.

John 1:14 tells us how God is involved with us. He dwelt among us. He became flesh to be involved with us. Because He chose to be involved with us, we saw, experienced and encountered His glory which is full of grace and truth. This is only possible because Jesus who is fully God came to be involved and stayed here with us.

How was God involved?

Mark 10:45 says that God came not to be served but to serve. It would be totally legitimate for Jesus to ask to be served because after all He created the universe and our world. Generally speaking, most of us would prefer to be served, and not to serve. Yet Jesus, the only one who truly deserves to be served chose not to be served.

- **Jesus's involvement is to serve by giving**

Jesus came to serve and to give. We cannot serve without giving. When we go to a restaurant and wave for assistance, we would say the service is bad if the waiters do not come to serve us by giving their assistance, attention or time. Serving and giving cannot be separated.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

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What did Jesus give?

Jesus gave His life as a ransom for all. He died not only for those who deserved it or those who believed in Him and appreciated what He did, but for all. Even now, 2000 years after He served by dying for all on the cross, some people still abuse His name and deny His existence. But He died for them too. When Jesus serves, He serves all and that means when I am called to serve, I too must serve everyone.

- **Jesus serves by giving His all**

In Galatians 5:13, Paul says we were called to freedom. It means we are now free from sin and the devil. Because of Jesus' sacrifice we are set free from our sinful nature and the power of sin and death in our lives. But we are not to turn our freedom into an opportunity for the flesh. Although we tend to think of the flesh as indulging in sin, Paul contrasted flesh to 'serve one another' through love. This tells us that the 'flesh' desires to be served as it is about self. But we should choose to serve one another through love which is the reason Christ got involved with us. If we know that God loves us enough to send Jesus to serve us to the point of giving His life, how could we not love and serve others? The cross has a horizontal and vertical side, the vertical reminds us that it is about loving God and the horizontal reminds us to love people.

How to serve like Jesus

In Philippians 2:3-4, we are called to learn from Jesus:

- **To do nothing out of selfishness and conceit but with humility**

To serve is an exercise in humility. Because Christ humbled Himself to serve, we are called to consider one another as more important than ourselves. We tend to think more highly of ourselves and therefore think that we deserve to be served, so we need to consider others as more important than ourselves. How did Jesus humble Himself? He felt that we are more important than Him and hence, He was able to love and serve us to the point of dying on the Cross for us.

- **To not only look out for our personal interests but also for the interests of others**

It does not mean to not look after our own interests to the point that we go hungry. We are to look after our own interests but do not stop there, and to also love and serve all people.

God has given everyone a gift to serve others

1 Peter 4:10 tells us that each one of us has received a special gift from God. If you do not know your gift, you can use the SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experience) questionnaire to help you discover your gifts. There are many ministries, such as ushers, greeters, choir, worship, sound and media team, children ministry and others that you can serve our Faith church family in. Join the choir if you have the gift to sing and enjoy singing. Use your gifts to serve others. To employ the gift means to use it. Do not stop at discovering it but use it, not for yourself

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but to serve others. Do not use it for your own glory or interest. Be a good steward because the gift that you are given is by the grace of God. God has graciously given you the gift.

It is more blessed to give(serve) than to receive

What about those moments we get tired from serving? Take a break and rest. But do not let the break become a permanent one.

In Acts 20:35, Paul was asking others to follow him as he had followed Christ. The work he was referring to in Acts 20:35a was his serving the churches and supporting the weak. He continued to say in Acts 20:35b that when serving, we should remember that Christ Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

CONCLUSION

There are many areas we can serve in. The Life Group is one of the best places to be involved besides the various ministries and ad hoc events which we can serve in if we cannot make a regular commitment. Whether we serve in church, external charities or our community, let us continue to be salt and light of God. Use our gifts to serve so that others will see a Christian who is humble as a testimony that the Christian faith is doing something good.

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B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

3. Read Mark 10:45 slowly and reflectively.
 - a. Recall a time you experienced being served by someone in church.
 - (i) How was it like to be served?
 - (ii) How has it impacted your faith journey?

4. Read 1 Peter 4:10 slowly and reflectively.
 - a. What gift(s) has God graciously given you that you might steward to serve others? (Members may take turns to affirm one another of your gifts)
 - b. How can you grow these gifts from God to better serve our church community?

5. How would you rate your involvement (serving) in church on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being very little involvement and 10 very involved?
 - a. What are some ways you can be more involved (serving) in church? Note: You may click on this link for opportunities to serve: <https://www.faithmc.sg/serving-faith/>
 - b.
 - (i) How would your increased involvement impact our church community positively?
 - (ii) How can your group members help or encourage you to achieve 5a above?

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C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action

Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.

6. Share your personal testimony on your involvement in serving the community of believers. Include the joy and challenges you face and how it has grown your faith in God.

OR

Give thanks to God for coming to serve us and not to be served, setting the perfect example on how to be involved in the lives of others through love.

7. Take time to pray for one another to hear from God and be willing to give of your time, effort, gifts and resources to be involved by serving others in our church community. Seek the Holy Spirit's empowerment to be light and salt in serving one another in humility and love; to be more like Jesus.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Praise – Elevation Worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raFnjGVkHe8>
2. Heart of a Servant – City Harvest <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMSh1MIOeA0>
3. Reward – Josh Yeoh <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-uGMWCWkAI>

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