



[Serving 101]

In 1896, [Vilfredo Pareto](#) published his first work. Although most have never heard of the title: *Cours d'économie politique*, his discoveries and conclusion impact most of our lives. Pareto determined that approximately 80% of the land in Italy was owned by 20% of the population.

The **Pareto principle** states that, for many events, roughly 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. Unfortunately, the community of faith has embraced this principle and it is often said that 20% of people in a church do 80% of the work.

Howard Hendricks once described the local church as a football game: Twenty-two people on the field, badly in need of a rest, and forty thousand in the stands, badly in need of exercise.

BUT- what would happen if the community of Christ looks radically different? What if every Christ follower took seriously the mandate to use the strength we have generously been given to change the world!

Prince of Peace Principle- In the Church 100% of the effects come from the power of the Spirit of the living God! In our strength we can do nothing. **This is part 4 in our Back to the start series: Serving 101**

Read [Luke Matthew 20:24]

We serve because He is our Model (Matt 20:24-28)

Apparently the sons of Zebedee and their mother did not pass kingdom **geography 101**. We find mom, with sons in tow, asking for prime **heavenly real-estate**. She wants what every parent hopes for their kids, that they will be great and impact the world! However, she equates earthly prestige to kingdom status.

Hearing this the other 10 become **indignant**. Are they furious at the elementary inquiry? We don't know. Most likely the sons of Thunder were asking for a seat that every other disciple hoped. Who doesn't want to be Jesus' right hand man? The Son of God uses this moment as a time to remind and recalculate the hopes of His followers.

The Kingdom is not like earthly power and might. Jesus shows us that our idea of "greatness" is not always rooted in the gospel. Whoever wants to become great must be your servant. **Great (Megs)- a large quantity, or status — 'much, big, great, extensive.'** The disciples had the **mega-man complex**. They wanted to be big. **Kingdom impact and greatness is not about you but Jesus. Greatness in the community of heaven is not defined by title or talent but humility and servanthood.**

In Christ, greatness is not defined by who you are but **who** you serve. **Gospel impact is not defined by who you are but **how** you serve!**

In *The Captain Class*, Sam Walker examines the hidden forces that create the world's greatest sports teams. Here's one of his surprising findings about one of the **characteristics** that makes for a **great team captain: they took care of tough, unglamorous tasks.** In other words, they were rarely stars. They did the grunt work. **Walker gives the following example:**

In 1962, when Brazil won its second consecutive World Cup, its team's unquestioned star was **Pelé**, arguably the greatest soccer player of all time. The prevailing view is that Pelé's brilliance, expressed by the 77 goals he scored, was the team's driving force. **But Pelé was never made captain**—nor did he lobby for the job. The team's primary leader was Hilderaldo Bellini, a tough and humble central defender who, during a nine-year stint with Brazil, **never scored a goal.**

Walker concludes, "***The captains on my list were rarely exceptional talents. ... The leader's job wasn't to dazzle on the field but to labor in the shadows of the stars, to carry water for the team, to lead from the back.***

The Messiah did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom. The word to **serve** is often translated= deacon, minister, take care, or to wait tables. Jesus is our model. He is our Messiah. ***Our Team Captain, was the greatest servant the world has ever seen.*** If the Son of man came to serve, how much should we have the same life of service.

Several days later (John 13) Jesus powerfully modeled servanthood when he washed the disciples feet at the last supper. It was a breathtaking deed. The Midrash taught that no Hebrew, even a slave, could be commanded to wash feet (Hughes).

There is only one who is Great- and his name is the Great I Am. You serve because He is our Model.

He equips us for Ministry (Eph 4:11-13)

If we are commanded to serve, then how do we serve? The overwhelming reminder in the Word of God is that **ministry is not for professionals but for the saints!** Not only has the Lord commanded you to serve, he has equipped you to serve.

For the perfecting/equipping (προς τον καταρτισμον). Only here in the New Testament. In classical Greek of refitting a ship or setting a bone.

The ancient world would bring a ship into the dock to add or replace elements, modify, modernize, or restore parts of the vessel. Ships were built around a keel- typically white oak- and extremely hard wood impervious to termites and wood bugs. After a long journey or a short difficult trek, the ship could come into port for examination. Most often the masts or the seams needed repacking with tar or pitch. **What was the purpose of refitting? To get the vessel sea worthy.** The ship was refit for the purpose of sailing. In the same way, **the Holy Spirit has equipped, and is constantly refitting you, for the work of ministry.**

Oh that we would not waste our lives. Oh that we would not be ships that always remain in port. These ships are useless for the fleet. My prayer: Lord you have not equipped me to sit in dock to dry rot. Today God is refitting you to do mighty things for the kingdom!

What are the benefits of serving Christ?

Building up of the body of Christ. When you serve the Lord, the body of Christ is built up. I still remember the giants of faith in my life: Mrs. Allison Waits and Mrs Ferguson, Mr Max Sturdivant. You never heard of them, but they are builders in my life. They built up the body of Christ.

I am reminded of a dear friend Ann who sent my daughter a hand written card this year in the mail. Ann was her small group leader. Why would someone send a 3 year old who cant read a card? To build up the body of Christ.

I think of men and women who serve faithfully every Friday evening at Celebrate Recovery. Why would someone give up a Friday night to serve people they don't know? Because they have been **beautifully refit by the power of Christ.** God wants to use you to build up His church! **Are you a builder?**

When you serve you promote unity. Show me someone who serves well and I will show you a unifying part of the body of Christ. *When our hands are filled with the service of Christ, we won't have our hands in others business.*

If you are idle in Christ's work, you are active in the devil's work. -- Spurgeon. Want to be a peace maker? Do you want to be a vital part of the unity of the faith family? Serve. Do the work that Lord has equipped you to do. Don't listen to the lie of the enemy: you have not *"done your time."* **God is not through with you yet! Are you building unity?**

When you serve you grow into Maturity. Show me someone who serves faithfully and humbly, I will show you someone maturing in their faith. The sad reality is that churches throughout our nation have people who have been member for years, sat through 100's of sermons, and never served. Never used the gifts that the Lord gave them to do the work of the ministry. Sadly, a person who never serves rarely grows. May we never be the one man who buried his talent. The Master's reply: You evil, lazy servant (Matt. 25:26). **Instead may you hear: Well done good and faithful.**

Conclusion

How is this even possible? Because of the power of the Holy Spirit working through the people of Yahweh.

Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you. —Corrie Ten Boom (a Dutch watchmaker and Christian who hid Jews in her home during WWII and imprisoned for her actions).

How about you? The 80/20 rule doesn't apply to the church. Its 100% the work of the Holy Spirit equipping His people. How about you? There are tremendous places to serve and change the world. CR, Foster Aid, Food ministries, coach soccer/baseball, List provided for you.

Will you commit today to follow the Model of our Savior, and be used to change the world?

27 and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Ransom: an idiom, literally 'to give one's life' to die willingly, with the implication of it being for some purpose — to pay your price/grant your release.

There is only one who is Great- and his name is the Great I Am.

Notes

Our Model

Matt. 20:24 When the ten disciples heard this, they became indignant with the two brothers. **25** Jesus called them over and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in high positions act as tyrants over them. **26** It must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become **great** among you must be your **servant**, **27** and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave; **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be **served, but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Great (Megas)- 59.22 μεγασα, μεγαλη, μεγα: a large quantity, involving extent — ‘much, big, great, extensive.’

Servant- 1249. διακονος diakonos; of unc. or.; *a servant, minister*: —deacons(3), minister(7), servant(10), servants(9).

Greatness is not defined by who you are but who you serve.

Greatness is not defined by who you are but how you serve.

To Serve- 1247. διακονεω diakoneo; from 1249; *to serve, minister*: —administered(1), administration(1), cared for(m)(1), contributing to the support(1), deacons(2), do the serving (1), employ in serving(1), minister(3), ministered(2), ministering(3), servant(1), serve(5), served(3), serves(5), services he rendered(1), serving(3), take care(m)(1), wait on(1), waited on(m)(3).

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Attitude

Phil. 2:5 Adopt the same **attitude** as that of Christ Jesus, **Phil. 2:6** who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. **7** Instead he emptied

himself by assuming the form of a **servant**, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man,

This hymn is called the “Christological centerpiece and jewel of the book” (Hughes, 83).

The Greek word order for the expression just noted is, “This be ye constantly thinking in you which also was in Christ Jesus.” The position of the pronoun “this” is emphatic and shows that the exhortation reaches back basically to 2:2–4, while the pronoun “who” in 2:6 connects the exhortation with the illustration in 2:5–8.

Philippians 2:5

Have this mind in you (τοῦτο φρονεῖτε ἐν ὑμῖν [*touto phroneite en humin*]). “Keep on thinking this in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (ὁ καὶ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ [*ho kai en Christōi Iēsou*]). What is that? Humility. Paul presents Jesus as the supreme example of humility. He urges humility on the Philippians as the only way to secure unity.

Literally – have the same mind as Christ

2:6- the idea is that he did not hold on to his equality with God as something to use for his own advantage (Hughes, 84).

Form- is the outward appearance that reveals the inward nature. The form of God is the glory of God and the form of a servant is the exact opposite of glory: a slave does not have a high position. The contrast points to the extent of Christ’s self-emptying.

Ministry

Eph 4:11 And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, **12** equipping the **saints** for the work of **ministry**, to build up the body of Christ, **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.

12. For the perfecting (πρὸς τον καταρτισμον). Only here in the New Testament. In classical Greek of refitting a ship or setting a bone. The preposition *for* denotes the *ultimate* purpose. Ministering and building are means to this end. Hence its emphatic position in the sentence. For *perfecting*, see on *mending*, Matthew 4:21; *perfected*, Matthew 21:16; Luke 6:40; 1 Peter 5:10. Compare 1 Corinthians 1:10; Hebrews 13:21. The radical idea of *adjustment* is brought out in ver. 13.

Ver. 12.—**In order to the perfecting of the saints.** The ultimate end for which the gifts bestowed (comp. Heb. 12:1). A work of completion is in hand, which must be fulfilled (see ver. 13); the saints, now compassed about with infirmity, have to be freed from all stain (ch. 5:26, 27), and as instruments towards this end, the ministers of the Church are given by Christ; they are not mere promoters of civilization, men of culture planted among the rude, but instruments for advancing men to complete holiness. **For the work of the ministry.** The preposition is changed from πρὸς to εἰς, πρὸς, denoting the ultimate end, εἰς the immediate object (comp. Rom. 15:2); the office of the Church officers is not lords, but διακονοί, servants, as Christ himself was (Matt. 20:28). **For the building up of the body of Christ.** Bringing bone to its bone and sinew to its sinew, increasing the number of believers, and promoting the spiritual life of each; carrying on all their work as Christ's servants and with a definite eye to the promotion of the great work which he undertook when he came to seek and to save the lost.

For the work of the ministry (εἰς ἔργον διακονίας). Rev., much better, *unto the work of ministering*. Εἰς *unto*, marks the *immediate* purpose of the gift. He gave apostles, etc., *unto the work of ministering and building, for the perfecting*, etc. The prevailing sense of διακονία *ministry*, in the New Testament, is *spiritual service of an official character*. See Acts 1:25; 6:4; 20:24; Romans 11:13; 1 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 4:5.

Edifying (οικοδομην). Rev., *building up*. See on Acts 20:32. Notice the combination of *perfecting* and *building*. *Building* defines the nature of the work of ministry, and *perfecting* comes through a process.

- your income according to your giving." –unknown

Illustrations

In his book about famous sports team captains titled *The Captain Class*, Sam Walker examines the hidden forces that create the world's greatest sports teams. Here's one of his surprising findings about one of the characteristics that makes for a great team captain: they took care of tough, unglamorous tasks. In other words, they were rarely stars. They did the grunt work.

Walker gives the following example:

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Application

90% of

We serve with the same Mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5-7)

Not only must we live out the model of our Savior, we must adapt the same attitude of Christ. The pronoun **this/same** is in the emphatic position and magnifies the SAME mind what we must have. Have this mind in you (τουτο φρονειτε εν υμιν [*touto phroneite en humin*]).

What is the attitude we should adopt? Humility and service- **2:6**- the idea is that he did not hold on to his equality with God as something to use for his own advantage (Hughes, 84).

Form- is the outward appearance that reveals the inward nature. The form of God is the glory of God and the form of a servant is the exact opposite of glory: a slave does not have a high position. The contrast points to the extent of Christ's self-emptying.

This is the powerful gospel truth of servanthood. There is something about serving the Master and His kingdom that renews within you the mind of Christ. Its as if setting your mind to serve the Lord guards your mind from everything else.

What are you adopting? What form are you taking? What is the outward expression of your inward nature. Not serving the Kingdom? Do you have the nature of The servant?