

# DAY 29

# SERVE



## **Matthew 20:28**

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Have you ever read a bible verse- one you've read maybe hundreds of times- and all of a sudden, it jumps off the page and into your heart like it never has before? Well, that's what happened to me when I read our verse for today: Matthew 20.28, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

I think it strikes me because when Jesus took the time to explain His whole reason for coming here to us, He was simple and really direct: to serve and to give. Not to BE served. Not to grab the spotlight

in the center of the stage. Not to make a name or attract attention or to become successful or famous or powerful or idolized. No- that kind of thing wasn't what he was about.

Verse 25 starts with this: “Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you --it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. FOR even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

And in this time of Lent, I think Jesus would have us with new eyes WHY He came and what He did. He came to serve and to give His life, and our calling is to follow in His steps. Serving isn't first and foremost “signing up to be an Usher or a small group leader,” although we might do that. Our calling isn't most importantly what we DO as much as it is who we are called to become: one who has the heart to serve others. Or, as Romans 8.29 says, “...to be conformed to the image of his son.” How do you view serving? Is it about what you do for God? Or is it about who you are- and allowing God to transform you? Talk to Him about that.

Are you willing to ask God to help you become/have the heart of one who serves others? Just as his heart wasn't to BE served but to serve and give himself- to lay down his life? Ask Him to make you willing.

One of my favorite children's books is *The Velveteen Rabbit*: by Margery Williams- I'd like to share a story from it with you:

Story of the Skin Horse (from *The Velveteen Rabbit*) “The Skin Horse had lived longer in the nursery than any of the others. He was so old that his brown coat was bald in patches and showed the seams underneath, and most of the hairs in his tail had been pulled out to string bead necklaces. He was wise, for he had seen a long succession of mechanical toys arrive to boast and swagger, and by-and-by break their mainsprings and pass away, and he knew that they were only toys and would never turn into anything else. For the nursery, magic is very strange and wonderful, and only those playthings that are old and wise and experienced like the Skin Horse understand all about it.

“What is REAL?” asked the Rabbit one day when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender before Nana came to tidy the room. “Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?” Real isn't how you are made,” said the Skin Horse. “It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become real.”

“Does it hurt?” asked the Rabbit.

“Sometimes,” said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. “When you are Real, you don't mind being hurt.”

“Does it happen all at once, like being wound up,” he asked, “or bit by bit?”

“It doesn't happen all at once,” said the Skin Horse. “You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily or have sharp edges or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out, and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all because once you are real, you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand.”

“FOR even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Lord Jesus, would you make us REAL-- and put within us a heart to become like you- not one who does serving or who loves to be served - but who serves others, just like you. Amen

### **Daily Practice:**

Our practice today is a simple one: Experiment throughout the day with this prayer: “Lord, please bring someone across my path today whom I can serve.” Amen

The below reflections are written by congregants & staff of CPC. All reflections are following Trevor Hudson's book *Pauses for Lent* and are both heavily influenced and borrowed from his work. Any quotes without attribution should be credited to him.