

Crucified Servanthood

All In

Philippians 2:1-9

If you have your bibles, go to Philippians chapter 2. I don't know if you've ever been in a situation before where somebody does something to you that is completely out of the ordinary and it just shocks you. That happened to me a little while back. I was in my office and somebody called and said I need to come and meet with you; are you at your office? I said yes, and so the guy comes. It was somebody that I know. He's quite a bit older than me and somebody I highly respect with a servant heart. So this guy comes into my office and I'm sitting behind my desk, as he walks in, I get up. He says I need you to come and sit in this chair. I'm like, ok...so I go and sit in this chair. I'm not really sure what's going on or what this guy has to say to me. I'm thinking it's probably not good, if he's calling me out; I don't know what's happening. But when I get seated in the chair, he gets down on both of his knees. I'm sitting there with my eyes wide open like what's going on. He reaches down and begins to untie one of my shoes and he pulls my shoe off. Then he unties the other shoe and pulls it off. He takes my socks and pulls one sock off. I didn't expect this, and I was like I should have maybe showered this morning or something. He pulls the other sock off and then takes a rag from the back of his pocket and he begins to wash my feet. Right there in the middle of the day, in the middle of my office, he's washing my feet. He begins to look at me and says, "I just want you to know that I love you, I'm here for you; I'm supporting you. If you need anything, let me know." Then he just prays over me, he gets up, and he leaves. I'm sat there I don't know how long, but tears are streaming down my face. It's just this overwhelming moment, almost like this holy moment where I got to see this humble greatness. I got to witness it. This guy came in, in the middle of the day, just to serve me, just to love me, and just to tell me that he's for me and praying for me. As

he left, I thought about why this guy would do this. It wasn't just an idea he had, he actually has heard and read about who his Savior is. What his Savior, who is Lord of all, did when He was around the table with all of His disciples, was took the place of a servant. He took off His outer garment, He went to His disciples, and He began to wash their feet. Of course, the disciples protest. Peter was like you're not washing my feet; You're the Lord. In that culture, lords or kings don't wash feet. If you're in an elevated position, servants are the ones who wash feet, not important people, not dignified people, and certainly not lords and teachers. But here this guy came and he's washing my feet because he saw Jesus do the same, Jesus, who is Lord of all, creator of heaven and earth. He washes the disciple's feet and they don't understand, and He's telling them if you want to know what greatness is, greatness is not just having people serve you. Jesus would tell them in other parts of Scripture that I didn't come to be served; I came to serve, and I came to give My life a ransom. That's what we're going to be looking at this morning, this idea of crucified servanthood. Jesus didn't just wash feet, moments later He would also go to a cross. He would put a cross on His back and die in their place for their sins, and our place for our sins. The same Lord who took a humble servant's role and washed their feet is the same Jesus who humbled Himself, even to death on a cross. He saw what they needed most was to be reconciled back to God, was to be forgiven of their sins, so He counted their interest and went and took care of it. He did for them what they desperately couldn't do for themselves. Jesus, with a cross, served us. What we're going to see is that with crosses on our backs, we go and we serve others, and that through a crucifixion is our motivation for wanting to serve others. So this morning, our big thought is going to be about crucified servanthood.

We're in this little series called "All In." If you were here last week you heard about it what it means to be all in. The idea is we are starting a new semester, everybody is getting back in school, and we want to ask the question: Are you all in when it comes to the kingdom of God? Are you all in when it comes to this local church because we are that expression of the kingdom, and we need you to do your part so that we can be on mission for the sake of Christ. We want you to be all in. What it looks like to be all in is you gather with us, you connect with us, you serve with us, you give

with us, and you go with us. That's what it looks like to be all in, so what we're asking is, are you all in? Are you gathering and connecting, are you serving, are you giving, and are you going? One minute, that middle section, that serving section, of what it means to be all in.

We chose a football image because it's football season. Racers start Thursday night, their first game. High school has already begun. But when you watch a football game, like when the guys go out on the field, the ones who have the jerseys on, there's a moment where the play is about to happen and every single person on the team, whether you're offense or defense, they're all in, they're hot, they're zeroed into what's happening. Everybody in the football image is intensely watching, except for the blurry guy who has a baseball hat on. He doesn't know what's happening; he's not on the field. He doesn't have a jersey on. But everybody that's on the line, they're all in, they're focused, they know their assignment, they know their play, and it's about to be hiked. It's about to be go time. Just imagine if in that picture, number seventy-five is turned around looking at a bird. It's like oh there's a birdy, hey! Check that out! Would it not look really odd if number seventy-nine was kind of like looking around, or if the center was holding the football, but also checking social media update status? It would look very odd, right; it would show they're not all in. They're not focused. They've got other things they're thinking. There's distraction. They're not doing what they know. But here's the thing with the football team, everybody has to be all in because the quarterback is relying on the center to do his job to stand up and block. Imagine that the center just forgot and just hiked the ball and kind of walked off. The quarterback's in big trouble, or the quarterback froze and receiver forgot to run the route, like everybody is in trouble if everyone doesn't do their assignment, doesn't do what they're supposed to. If everybody is not all in, the play is going to break down.

We use that analogy to ask if you're all in because when it comes to the body of Christ, we've got this mission to make disciples of all nations. It's going to take all of us doing our part to truly be all in. So we're looking at the section of serving and we're just asking the question, are you all in when it comes to serving for the kingdom and serving in this body. Are you

all in? Now, the point of the message is not just to get you to check a box. Just spoiler alert, if you look in your bulletin there is a card that has boxes for you to check. At the end of the service, I'm going to ask you to check a box on a card to see about a way you can serve in this body, but that is not the point of the sermon. That's only one application to the sermon. The point of the sermon is this; be a servant. That's the point. That's the bigger issue. We want you to be a servant, not just check a box, and serve an hour or volunteer for an hour, no; we want you to be a servant everywhere you go. So this means that when you leave in a little bit and you go back home, you should be a servant to those around you. Tonight after dinner, there should be a fight over who does the dishes. Like you're excited, no, huh uh, this is me. I'm doing it. No, you back up; this is mine. No, I'm serving you tonight. You go rest on the couch; I'm doing dishes. This is my thing. If you have a roommate who's never done the dishes, just piling up and you're getting mad, and you've told them over and over again, can you please just do the dishes? You see that pile and you say yes, I get to do more dishes than are mine. I get to be a servant. You get to look for opportunities around your house where you can serve, pick up, help out, do a chore that somebody else is supposed to, but you just want to because you really want to show you're a servant. Tomorrow when you go to work, it's the idea of now I want to serve the people around me. I'm looking for opportunities to go above and beyond because I am a servant; that's what I do. As you come into the gathering, come into this time, you're walking into this gathering not thinking what am I going to get out of this sermon today, or what am I going to get out of church today. You're coming and thinking who can I serve today? How can I help out today? Where is a need that I can help fill today because I am a servant? Do you know what servants do? They serve. You don't have to convince a servant to servant; a servant just serves. So we want to encourage you to truly have the mind of Christ and to be a servant, and then we're going to give you some opportunities to actually practically do that. So if you have your bibles, Philippians 2, we're going to look and read through verse 9.

Scripture

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name...”

(Prayer)

Father God, I pray that we would truly see what Jesus has done for us and that we would realize that we, now that we're in Jesus, have that same mind, that we are servants, and with crosses on our backs, we serve those around us because we've been crucified, and it's no longer we who live, it's Christ who lives in us, so we live for your honor and your glory, and we live to serve those around us. We pray this in Jesus good name, amen.

Those two verses are some of the hardest verses to live out in all the Bible. They're just really, really hard commands that Paul gives to a church that, in turn, the Holy Spirit gives to us for us to apply to our lives today. Just notice as we look at these verses, there are two things that are going on. He's exposing first some roots, and he is also exposing some fruit. We're going to see there is certain roots that you may or may not have that are going to produce certain fruit in your life. So those actions that you're actually doing, come from desires, motivation; it comes from your heart. That's what we're calling roots. I've got a home office; it's actually the playroom that's over our garage. A few months ago, I decided I needed some space at home, so I brought a couch and I put it in the very far

corner of the playroom, and I marked it off. I've told my family, I've told the kids, "Boys, don't go past this. This is Dad's three feet of the house." I get three feet at the end of my upstairs garage. So here's the line, I put a little desk here, I've got a bookshelf here, and I've got a giant window. I love being in that little space because if I'm on the phone, studying, or whatever I'm doing I can look out the window and I can just see my back; there are woods and trees. I've got these two trees that are on the edge of my yard, and I look at them often. As I look at these two trees, from my window, about one hundred feet away, they look the same. They're about the same height, got about the same leaves on them, and they kind of have the same shape. They just look like two trees that are almost identical, but if you go outside into my backyard and you walk up to these two trees, you see that they're very different. One tree has apples on it and the other tree has peaches on it. See, the trees look the same, but there is a very distinct difference. One is actually an apple tree, and one is a peach tree. What's different about those is the identity of those trees. Their roots are different. Their identity, the nature of that tree is different. One produces apples, and one produces peaches. You can look at the fruit of that tree and tell what kind of a tree it is, what kind of roots it has. Are these apple roots, or are these peach roots. You can tell the identity of the tree by the fruit that it bears.

Roots

So what Paul is going to do is show us the roots that may or may not be in our life, and then he's going to show how those roots actually produce fruit in the way we serve or don't serve others. We're going to highlight the roots first. Here's what he says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility, count others more significant than yourselves." So here's the root system. There are two different root systems that Paul is appealing to, one is bad roots, and the other is good roots.

- **Bad Roots**

So the bad roots are selfish ambition and conceit. So let's talk about those for just a moment. Paul is saying don't have selfish ambition, and don't have conceit. What do those two things mean? Is Paul saying don't have

ambitions, don't have dreams, don't work hard, or don't try to get ahead? What is he saying? No, he's not saying ambition is wrong because think about Jesus. He went with His disciples as He was getting ready to return to Heaven, and He says hey, I've got this sort of ambitious plan. You go tell the whole world about Me. So Jesus had a very ambitious plan, and it was that the whole world might know Him. So there's nothing wrong with ambition, Paul adds this word, "selfish ambition." It's wanting to get things, accomplish things, grow yourself, grow your business, and grow your influence for you because you want to become great. You want to be seen as the next thing. You want to have a little bit more money. You want to have a little bit more stuff. You want those things not to share and be generous; you want them for you. It's all selfish ambition. All of your dealings and all the way that you interact with people; it's always me first. Why do we have selfish ambition? It's because we're conceited. He's saying don't be conceited. What is conceit? It is to have excessive pride in oneself. It's just to be prideful. I'm the most important person in this room, so when I walk into this room, at the end of the day, I'm going to do what I want most. That's what conceit does. That's what selfish ambition does. There's an extreme version of this that's really obvious. You know conceited people. You work with conceited people. You've got conceited people in your family. You're like, yeah I know; it's all about them. Every conversation goes back to them. That is conceit, but I think there's a subtle conceit that we sometimes don't see as much. I think what selfish ambition and conceit can easily be is just a desire for comfort. At the end of the day, I just want comfort. At the end of the day, I just want the easy path. That's how selfish ambition and conceit work out in my heart. I walk into a situation and I'm thinking if I go the extra mile, if I ask a question, if I go into this place, then it's going to cost me time, energy, and resources. It's going lead to me not having comfort. So when you go into a place and your ideal scenario is I just want to be comfortable, I just want a place on the couch, I just don't want to do any more than I have to, that's conceit; it's selfish ambition. It's thinking about you. We translate that in church. We come in here, and man, I just want fresh donuts, hot coffee, and a nice seat. I don't want to talk to any of you because you have a lot of junk. You've got a lot of problems. I don't want to deal with your problems; I

need to hear from God and then I need to go. That's how we come to church because I don't want to mess with all of your messiness. It's not going to leave me comfortable to get in and actually serve you because in serving you, there might be some messiness and I might have to do something I don't want to do. So I think a lot of times selfish ambition and conceit just means we really desire to be comfortable. You can't be a servant and be comfortable, because serving involves getting out of your comfort, because it's not about you, it's about somebody else. So that's that root of selfish ambition and conceit.

- **Good Roots**

But there's another root called humility, and that's what he's trying to get us to see. He wants us to be humble. He wants us to have humility. I love what CS Lewis says about humility. He defines humility as this: It's not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less. That's such a great way to explain humility. Sometimes we think humility means you just really think badly of yourself. I'm a nobody; I'm just the worst person, so I'm humble. No, that's not being humble. Humble means you know who you are. Jesus knew who He was, so therefore He humbled Himself and He served. Being humble is I know who I am. I'm not thinking less of me; I'm an image bearer of God. I've got value, dignity, and worth because God made me in His image. It's not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking about yourself less. You're going into situations and you're not just thinking about you; you're thinking about others. You're thinking about the people around you. How can I enter into their world? How can I help? How can I be used to serve somebody, to make someone's life better, not just make my life better? That's humble.

- **Good Fruit**

So there are two root systems. One is all about you; that's selfish ambition and conceit. You're number one. Then there is humility. God is number one, others are number two, and then I take the backseat as third. I'm going to love God and serve people. That's the root system of humility. So what do those roots produce? Let's see what he says. We will highlight the next verse; this will be the roots. So if you have humility as the root system

in your life, here's what's going to happen. You will "count others more significant than yourself." You will count others as more important than you are. That's what humility does. It says you walk into a place and people are there, and you automatically think I'm the least important in this situation. The people that I'm with are more important. Do you know what you do? You look to their interests. You look to the interests of others. So everybody here is more important than me, and everybody else probably needs something, desires something, wants something, so what I'm going to do is try to find out what their interests are and how I can serve them and show them the love of God because that's what, ultimately, I want. That's what humble servants do. That's what crucified servants do. They go into places, they volunteer for things, and they ask to serve because they really believe it's about others. It's others first and looking to their interest above my own.

- **Bad Fruit**

That other root system, that selfish ambition and conceit, what does it produce? It produces you're only looking out for your own interests. Paul says don't do that. Don't only look to your own interests. He's not saying never think about your interests. You do have interests. You do have needs. He says don't only think about those. Yes, you have some things you need to survive and some things God wants you to enjoy, but he's saying don't make that your life. Don't only be about those things; instead, consider the interests of others, look to others. That's really the heartbeat of what it means to serve. To be humble, and with a humble heart, you're looking at other people as more important and you're looking out for their interests, and then you go and serve to meet their interests. That's what humility looks like.

Changing Your Root System

Some of you are thinking how in the world do I do that? That's really hard because for me, it's me first, my interests, and everybody else just do what I need you to do. That's our default position, so how in the world are we going to do this, Paul? How in the world is the church going to all gather on this because he want them to be unified, he wants them to love one

another, and here's how it happens, everyone is serving each other. Ok, that sounds nice, Paul, but how in the world are we going to do this? How do you change your root systems? How do you change your heart so that it produces this kind of fruit, so that you really consider others more significant than yourself? Paul is going to say that it is only by the gospel. It is only in Christ that this is going to be possible, so we connect what we are supposed to do with the person who you do it through, and that is Jesus Christ. Notice what he says in verse 5, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Jesus Christ." So, do this, be humble, count others more important, and serve their needs over your own. How do we do this? By having the mind of Christ because this is what Christ did. Christ came and thought about this interests of others. Christ considered what we needed over what He needed. He came and He served us, and what Paul says is the way Jesus did it, you have that same mind now because you're actually in Christ. He doesn't say get this mind, or try to figure out this; he says if you are a believer, you have this mind. You have been put in Jesus, so here's the reality; you are a servant, so start thinking like a servant, and acting like a servant because that is who you are. He goes right back to the gospel. It's the root system of being in Christ that changes the fruit of your life. If you're in Christ, it's remembering who you are in Christ, remembering who's mind you have, and that's the mind of Jesus that put others interests first. We are called to do the same.

I love what Paul says in Galatians 2:20. He says, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." That was Paul's life; I've been crucified with Christ. In other words, Paul knew I've been through a death, I've been crucified with Christ. Here's the reality; all of us, in Adam, have selfish ambitions and conceit, and we all put ourselves first. That's all of us from Adam. We inherited that from our great granddaddy. But what happens is when we come to know Jesus, when we repent and believe, that person is crucified. That person is stapled to the tree of Christ. that person dies, is laid in a tomb, and then when Jesus got up three days later, that person didn't get up, a new you, a new person who is redeemed in the image of Christ, now you have been crucified with Christ, therefore, it's no longer

you who lives, no longer that me centered person, but now Christ lives in you. Paul is trying to say believe the gospel; it's actually happened to you, but now, believe it. You have the mind of Jesus. You have Him living in you and through you, so lean into that because what He's going to produce is humility that puts others first. So have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ. You already have it you just need to start using it, start applying it, and start seeing the world through the lens of Jesus.

Notice that he actually gives the example of Jesus. In verse 5, he says, "Having this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus who (he is going to put Jesus on display) though He was in the form of God did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men and being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Here is what he's trying to get us to do. He is trying to get us to be servants. He's trying to get us to put others first. The question is how. We do it because we are in Christ, and in Christ, we have the mind of Christ, so we should think and act like Jesus did. Then he kind of backs up and says let me just remind you what Jesus did; who was in the form of God, but did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, held onto to use to His advantage. Instead, He took on the form of a servant, He was born in the likeness of men, and He humbled Himself. That humility led Him all the way to a cross to die in our place for our sins.

What is Paul trying to say? He's saying let's just take Jesus for a minute, Jesus who was fully God, the eternal Son, who the angels fly around and say, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God; the whole earth is filled with your glory!" That's what they are shouting at the Son, at the radiance of His glory. The Son left Heaven, left that glory, and emptied Himself out by adding on the form of a servant. He became a man. He clothed Himself in flesh. Notice when it says He became a man, He took on the form of a servant. God leaves Heaven; He could have easily come as the obvious king. Jesus is the king, but He could have come as an obvious king. He could have been born in a palace. He could have sat on a throne, and He could have had people serve Him all day long. That would have been right.

That would have been good. That would have been true. He could have done that. He could have been conceited because Jesus can't actually be conceited because He really is the greatest. It's not wrong for Jesus to be conceited; He is the best. But here's what Jesus did; He humbled Himself and took on the form of a servant. He was born in a feeding trough. He was born to a poor family, and He grew up and lived life like you and me. But the way He lived His life, He lived as a servant. He went to the outcasts. He touched the people who no one else would touch. He went places that no one else would go. He served the hungry. He served the poor. He served those who were sick. He helped; He lent His hand anyway that He could. He goes down and washes the disciple's feet. He goes to a cross. Why? Because we need redemption. He looked to our own interests. He took the place of a servant. The one person who deserves to be served all day long, Jesus, took the role of being a servant and served us. So Paul says, now, what's your excuse? That's kind of what he's getting to with the Philippians. He is like, yeah, this is hard. Do you want to talk about hard? Let's talk about God for a moment. God did this for us. He is our example, and in the gospel, we've been crucified. We have His mind, so what we should by default, we should be servants, and we should love to serve because we've been in the gospel. We've been crucified. On the other side of a crucifixion, there's a resurrection. That's where we're at; we've risen from the dead as servants having the mind of Christ, looking to others.

How to Serve

So how do we do this? I want to give three real practical ways that you can flex that crucified serving muscle this week.

1. Wow those around you.

Just listen to that verse again, "...but in humility, count others more significant than yourself." Philippians 2:3. Just imagine that you actually did that. Imagine if you actually, in every interaction this week, the person you were interacting with you really believe they are more important than I am, and I'm going to look for their interests, and I'm going to serve them. Do you know what I think would happen? I think everybody that came in contact with you would be wowed. We like that word at Hardin, wow! Wow

means something that's great, something that you can't explain, or something that just leaves you breathless. Like when a guy walks into my office, takes my shoes off, and washes my feet, that's a wow moment. That's out of nowhere, didn't have to, but came and did. That's the extra mile. What you can do for people as a servant, if you really, in humility, count them as more significant than yourself, they probably haven't seen this before. When you enter their space, go the extra mile, serve them well, go above and beyond to show them valued, loved, and cherished, they're going to feel valued, loved, and cherished, and it's going to blow their mind because there are few that are really cherishing them and valuing them. Most people just use them for whatever they want. But if we will be servants with all the people that we're in proximity with, if we will look them in the eye, we won't be distracted by all the things going on, we actually look them in the eye and love them, serve them, and cherish them, I think they will be wowed. That's what we want to do; we want to wow people this week. So wow the people around you.

2. Act like you own the place.

This is one of the Ramsey quotes that they use around their corporation, but I love the concept. Act like you own the place. Here's what 1 Corinthians says, "Now you are the body of Christ and individual members of it." Notice what that said. You are the body of Christ, not you came to the body of Christ, not you came to church this morning; you are it. You are the body of Christ. Here's the reality. If you're a Christian, if you've got a jersey on, you're an owner. You have participation. You own a share, as we talked about last week, of what's going on here, so act like you own the place. Do you know what owners do? They always look for ways to serve and they always look for things that need to be done. I have a buddy who owns a retail store, and I went last week. I'm sitting and talking to one of his managers and sales reps, we're out on the patio area, and this guy I know comes out and he's the owner. He comes out and says hi to me, and he immediately glances and notices that one of the chairs on the patio is not perfect. He just walks over and moves the patio chair, moves the other, and gets them perfect, and he comes back and continues talking to me. Why did he do that? Here's your manager and your sales rep, and you

just went and put the chairs out right. Why did he do that? He's an owner! He sees the whole place as different. He doesn't only look at here's what I'm supposed to do. No, he looks at the whole picture and says what is out of place. How can this be better? How can I go the extra mile? That's what owners do, and what we at Hardin want to encourage you as a believer in Christ to recognize you're an owner. So when you come into the gathering, have your eyes open. See a need; meet a need. That's a great little phrase to keep in your mind. If you see the donuts are messed up, why don't we straighten them? If you see somebody is wondering around lost, why don't you go and introduce yourself and take them where they need to go? If you see something and wonder, why Hardin doesn't do this; say why don't I do this? Because I'm an owner! If there's a need, I'm going to meet this need. I had someone just after the other service say, "Do you know we don't have a TV in the nursing mother's room anymore?" I'm like, "No, I haven't been in there in a while, but I don't know." She says, "Well ok, I'm going to make sure that we get that fixed. I'm going to go put one in." I'm like, "Ok, that will be awesome because I'm probably not going to go back in that room." But she is going to be in there and she's going to help moms who need to go into that space to be able to see, not just here. So this is a girl who said I know where a need is, and she just went and fixed it. That's what we need. We need servants who own the place, who see needs and meet them. Why don't we have this? Well, why don't you do this? Because that's a great opportunity. So many of the ministries at Hardin are led by people in this church who said why don't we do this and they just go do it. There are whole ministries that are developed over people who see a need and meet a need, and gather other people who care about that need. That's how the body of Christ works, so act like you own the place because you do. It's as much yours as it is ours. We are the body of Christ, so let's own the place.

3. Use your gift to serve.

Here's what 1 Peter says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." Notice what he says, "...as each has received a gift." He's talking to the believers. If you're a believer in Christ, you not only have the mind of Christ, which is a servant,

but you've also been given a gift from Jesus to use in the capacity He has called you to serve. So you have a gift if you're a believer. Some of our gifts are dormant because we're not using them, but the truth is we have a gift. He's wired you some way that we need. Here's what the command is, use it. You have a gift, a simple command; use it to serve others. Use it to serve others.

If you're all in, that's that connection piece of you know what, I'm going to wow those around me, I'm going to own the place, and I'm going to use my gift to serve in some capacity. So what we want to encourage you to do is we're going to help you with that last little step. I told you the sermon is not about checking a box, but now I'm going to ask you to get the card out and check a box. There is a serving card in the bulletin. If you're currently serving, please take it out anyway. I want everybody to get the card. The card says to fill out your contact information, and on the very bottom, it says, "I'm currently serving in _____ and I'm all in. If you're currently serving in the farm or youth, or lead a Bible study on Tuesday morning somewhere, or there's some off campus thing you're doing in the community that you feel like is your way as an extension of Hardin to really serve the body, then write that in. write where you're serving, and we want you to check, "I'm all in." I'm still good to go. I still feel passionate about being a servant. We would love to hear from you. There's another thing that says, "I want to be in, and I'm interested in serving in children, youth, college, adult, production in music, other. If you come to the realization that I'm a servant and I'm not serving the kingdom in any way, I'm not serving in any way the mission here that Jesus has given this body, but I want to. I'm all in. I want to serve, and I don't know exactly where to go. If that's you, we ask you to check one of these areas or fill your own area in, and let us know. We are going to be relentless on finding you the place you want to serve. Some of you are saying well, I want to, but...There's always a 'but' when it comes to serving. So I've actually put five of the common reasons that you're likely to not fill out this card.

1. I don't have time.

I realize that is a real struggle. None of us has as much time as we want or would like. But when I ask somebody about their time and start pressing them about how they use their time, what usually happens is it is not an issue of time, it's an issue of priorities. We do the things we want to do. We make time for the things we want to make time for. Some of us, if you're saying I just don't have any time, my first question would be, do you have social media? If the answer is yes, then you have time. If you have time to go on social media, you have more than enough time to do something for the sake of the kingdom. If you play a video game, you have time. It's usually priority, not a sense of I don't have time. If you just look and prioritize serving, then we'll do that first and everything will find its place.

2. I'm tired.

I know. I get it; I'm tired too. We're all tired, and serving, the idea is if I'm really energetic, then I'll serve. Think about Jesus. He didn't have a car. He walked everywhere He went. He went into situations that He was tired, hungry, and thirsty, and He still served. Serving includes fatigue. So if you want to serve when you're not tired, you're never going to serve. It includes fatigue. It's part of the deal.

3. I'm not qualified.

That's ok. In all these positions, we're going to walk you through every step of the way. We're not going to throw you in the farm and give you twenty-five kids and say good luck, shut the door. We're going to have you mentor somebody. We're going to have you shadow somebody. You're going to be a helper. You're going to be an aid for a little while until you grow into a place where you can take over a space, and you'll have a little helper. You'll also have somebody that comes alongside of you. All these areas, the leader is going to work with you to make sure you're qualified, trained, and ready to go. If you're not qualified for that, we'll find you another serving place.

4. I'm retired.

I've already done my time. I've had my kids; I served, and now I'm good. I'm in retirement. That's our philosophy; work and then retire. When we think about church life, we serve and then retire; now we'll leave it to the other ones because we've already done our part. We sort of translate this to Heaven too. Heaven is about retirement. When I die, I'm finally going to be retired and I can just do all life about me. If you think Heaven is going to be all life about you, you're going to be shocked because in Heaven, it's going to be the place where we perfectly love God and serve one another. In Heaven, we're going to serve relentlessly because we love to and want to. So if you're thinking I'm just in retirement waiting for life to be about me in Heaven, it's not going to be about you in Heaven. It's going to be about your neighbors and serving. Serving is not something you grow out of as you get older; it's something you mature into as you get older. I want to be on my deathbed still serving because I'm going to be transferred to a kingdom that's all about serving because serving is where true joy is found.

5. I'll pray about it.

We hear this a lot. We ask somebody to serve, well I'll pray about it, and then we don't hear back. If you make the comment, "I'll pray about it," that's a really good comment. But if you're saying, I'm going to pray about whether God wants me to serve or not, I'm going to go ahead and answer that prayer. The answer is yes, He does. He says right in His Scripture. Pray, read the verses we just went over, and there is your answer. He says yes. So praying is not do you want me to serve. Praying is where do you want me to serve? The 'where' might be just your family right now. It might be somewhere in the community right now. But it might also be there is a space here in this body that we need you, and you can help us out. So praying is not do you want me to serve God. He does. He answered it. That's a yes. You can say amen to that prayer, and move on and ask where. God, I'm open handed; where do You want me to serve because I want to be available to You. I don't want to live my life just comfortably living for me; I want to live my life as the crucified servant. I want to serve others with a cross on my back because the old selfish me

died. There's a new me that loves others more than I love myself, and I want to show that through the way I serve.