

## Show + Tell: Render Service

Matthew 25:31-40

9.8.2019

We are kicking off a new series this morning called “Show + Tell.” If you are a grade school graduate, you know what show and tell is. You bring an object from home and share it with your class. You show it and then you tell them what it is and why it’s special. Believe it or not, this same idea is REALLY important when it comes to our faith.

**Pay close attention to your life and your teaching; persevere in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy 4:16**

When Paul writes to Timothy, he wants him to pay careful attention two things: his life and his teaching. His life has to do with showing the world he is a follower of Jesus by his actions. His teaching has to do with telling the world he is a follower of Jesus by his words. Timothy is called to do both! Here’s the key: when he does both, he introduces those who hear and see him to Jesus. Showing and telling is an evangelism strategy.

**NB: Evangelism Strategy** – Sharing the hope we have. We do not convert anyone!

In our series, we’re going to talk about how we can show our faith in what we do and tell about our faith through our words. Today, let’s talk about how we can show our faith through our SERVICE.

<ILL: Going to HEB> I was blessed by his kindness. Everyone likes to be blessed. And a simple way to bless someone is to serve them well! Imagine the reputation Christianity would have if we blessed people and made life better for them.

\*This strategy is so important that it will be celebrated on the Last Day.

**31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on the left. Matthew 25:31-33**

Jesus talks about His return on the Last Day. And He refers to people who follow Him as “sheep.” He does this in other places in the Bible.

**The Lord is my shepherd. Psalm 23:1**

**“I am the good shepherd. I know My own, and My own know Me.” John 10:14**

Notice that Jesus describes a sorting process where His sheep are on the right ...

**34 Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you took care of Me; I was in prison and you visited Me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or without clothes and clothe You? 39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and visit You?’ 40 And the**

**King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.’” Matthew 25:34-40**

As Jesus is talking to His sheep, He commends them on the Last Day for serving. And we learn a few things about SERVICE from what Jesus says. That will be our focus.

**1. Service can be Simple.** <ILL: Mission Trips> We serve others on these trips. But please understand: Life can be a mission trip without ever leaving home! There’s a reason Jesus mentions all these different types of people who have been served by His sheep.

**<sup>35</sup>“I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you took care of Me; I was in prison and you visited Me.” Matthew 25:35-36**

You know someone in one of these categories. You don’t have to go anywhere to find them because they’ve come to you. Serve them! In fact, one of the things we’re committed to at Concordia is making service simple.

- Care Kits
- Church Under the Bridge
- Where you sit in church or Bible Study! <ILL: People who give up their seat!>
- Service Learning Program (People all around us who need our love and help!)

Service is so simple for Jesus’ sheep: they forgot they were serving. Serving doesn’t have to be complicated, it can become our lifestyle! The sheep respond to Jesus like this ...

**<sup>37</sup>“Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or without clothes and clothe You? <sup>39</sup>When did we see You sick, or in prison, and visit You?” Matthew 25:37-39**

Their service became such a natural part of their lives, they just did it and didn’t think about it as anything other than natural.

<ILL: “It was my pleasure!” Where else would I be? What else would I want to do?>

**Challenge:** if you’re not doing so well in serving, pick one thing. Make it a part of your calendar. Let it become a habit. You might just come to feel like it is an IMPORTANT part of you! This leads us to the next thing...

**2. Service blesses the Server.** Service has the side effect of blessing us!

<ILL: Man who greeted me at HEB> I’ll bet he LOVES his job! You can just tell!

So ... how can you figure out what you should do? It begins with the simple stuff for the people right around you. Somewhere along the line, something will break your heart!

<ILL: Human trafficking: “This breaks my heart!”> If you can figure out what breaks your heart, then serving in that area can help mend your heart.

**<sup>16</sup>If I preach the gospel, I have no reason to boast, because I am compelled to preach – and woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 1 Corinthians 9:16**

I understand. What can you not help not to do? And if you don’t have something like that, it may be what you are looking for!

**3. Service reflects the Servant.**

**“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.” Matthew 25:40**

Service is so closely connected to Jesus, that when you do it, Jesus always knows. It is like you're doing it for Him. This is how deeply service is connected to Jesus. 700 years before Jesus talked about His sheep who serve, the prophet Isaiah talked about the perfect Servant.

**<sup>13</sup> See, My servant will be successful; He will be raised and lifted up and greatly exalted. <sup>14</sup> ... His appearance was so disfigured that He did not look like a man ... Isaiah 52:13-14**

Isaiah says a Servant will come from God whose service will be a huge success. But it won't look that way at first. He will suffer profoundly. These words are called Isaiah's "Suffering Servant Speech." But, His suffering will change the world.

**<sup>5</sup> He was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, He did not open His mouth. Isaiah 53:5, 7**

The Servant's suffering is actually our healing. Interesting: He's going to suffer without saying a word. He will be silent.

**NB: "Actions speak louder than words."** The Suffering Servant's – Jesus' - actions will be so loud that through His act of service nothing ever stays the same.

Maybe you've never quite figured out how to tell people about Jesus. We will talk about that in a couple of weeks. But for right now, will you join me in focusing on how to "show?"

That's what Jesus did on the cross, and it changed the world.

I challenge you! Focus on finding ways to bless others EVERY DAY. Be a blessing ... a service to someone else! Watch and see if it doesn't make a difference in how people respond to you. When we serve others for Jesus, we point them to Jesus because we're acting like Jesus.

**<ILL: Hurricane Dorian, Samaritan's Purse:**

**<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/pray-for-those-in-the-path-of-hurricane-dorian/>> The service you render can make an eternal difference!**