

11-04-2011 SERVING

SERVING... This isn't a tennis lesson on the proper toss & form in SERVING. The tennis description is analogous to spirituality in that the tennis player makes a conscious decision on which way to SERVE. I'm Ken Trahan & Welcome to Walking in the Word with Williams Blvd. Baptist Church.

Unfortunately, I have served many gods including work, food & other fleshly desires. At times, they have controlled my life. Does this sound familiar? God wants us to SERVE Him. We must choose the right path, a velocity-based SERVE toward Him, not the spin that turns us in the wrong direction.

Isaiah 42 prophesies the life & character of the coming Messiah, verses 1-4: "See my servant, whom I uphold, my Chosen One, in whom I delight. I have put my Spirit upon Him. He will reveal justice to the nations. He will be gentle & provide justice to all wronged. He won't be satisfied until truth & righteousness prevail throughout the earth & until others trust in Him."

God's judgment rights, repairs & restores. When He does, we can all be confident that all the injustices & inequalities of the world will be exposed. The Chosen One reveals encouragement, justice & truth. He will pick you up when you are down!

Verses 5-9: "I, the Lord, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. You shall also be a light to guide the nations unto Me. You will open the eyes of the blind & release those who sit in prison darkness & despair. I am the Lord. That is My name & I will not give My glory to anyone else."

Part of Christ's mission on earth was to demonstrate God's righteousness. Jesus provides all an opportunity to share in His mission. God calls us to serve Christ. We must allow His light to shine in us before we can become lights!

Verses 10-12 instruct us to sing the Lord's praises, verse 13: "The Lord will be a mighty warrior, full of fury toward his foes. In verses 14-17, Isaiah describes the horror awaiting those whom He vents wrath toward but verse 16 says He will not forsake them. We must SERVE God. In tennis terms, we must stop SERVING faults. If you SERVE a fault, you get a second chance. God gives us second chances to right our ways, to SERVE correctly.

There are great examples of SERVING throughout Scripture. In Matthew 23:11, Jesus says, "he who is greatest among you shall be your servant." Greatness comes from SERVING, helping God & others, rather than ourselves. Jesus SERVED us.

In Mark 9:35, Jesus speaks to His apostles: “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all & servant of all.” Jesus teaches us not to use people but to SERVE them. He SERVED us by giving His life for our lives, a true servant’s heart.

In Mark 10:35-45, Jesus teaches by shifting the emphasis from prominence in position to splendor in service, culminating in verses 43-45: “Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant & whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. The Son of Man did not come to be SERVED but to SERVE & give His life as a ransom for many.”

John 13:1-17 provides a telling act of SERVING, that of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet, initiating the most intimate discourse between Jesus & His disciples recorded in all of Scripture. This took place in the final hours of His life. 2nd Corinthians 4:5 instructs us: “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ, Jesus, the Lord & ourselves, your servants, for Jesus’ sake.”

Finally, Joshua 24:15 provides great instruction on SERVING. “Choose for yourself this day whom you will SERVE. As for me & my house, we will SERVE the Lord!” Joshua was willing to take a stand. He had made a commitment to God & was willing to set an example for others. The way we live shows others the strength of our commitment to SERVING God.

In a society which promotes revenge, self-indulgence, & survival of the fittest, it is important for us to understand SERVING. We may not have the velocity of Andy Roddick’s SERVE but if we choose to SERVE the Lord, we will have more power, accuracy, win the point & claim the victory in eternity—game, set & match!

For a text copy, e-mail me @ kentrahan@aol.com & ask for SERVING. For Pastor Tim Williams, thanks for joining us. I’m Ken Trahan. God bless you!