

SINGLE HEARTED DEVOTION

Introduction

Acts 17: 16-31

- ▶ God is not served by human hands as if he needed anything!
- ▶ If God doesn't need us, then why are we here? Why do we have ministries? Why does He call us to serve?
- ▶ What is our attitude as we attend church, participate in ministry and service?
- ▶ God wants you to experience the unmatched joy serving him out of loving Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength

1. You will never see God physically asking you to serve him in the physical form

Acts 17: 24-25

- God does not need service or maintenance
- He wants you to experience the unmatched joy of loving Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- Our acts of service should be out of gratitude in response to what he has done for us
- We serve God only by serving others- Peter do you love me more than these , feed by sheep ***John 21 15-18***
- He is seeking ***Relational Connection*** over ***performance*** vs 26-27 *God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us*

2. There is no perfect condition or season for service

- If you wait for flawless conditions or the "perfect season" to step out, you will never accomplish what you are called to do
- Actionable faith means starting right where you are with what you have and keeping focus on God rather than on the conditions
- When we stop making excuses about our busy schedules, fatigue, or less-than-perfect circumstances, we open ourselves up to be used by God

Ecclesiastes 11:4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

2 Timothy 4:2 – Be ready in season and out of season

Ecclesiastes 3:1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens

Examples of "watching the wind" mentality:

- **Waiting for the "Right Season":** too busy with life stages (e.g., raising kids, building a career). "I will serve when things settle down," often never happens.
- **The Consumer Mentality:** Church is a service provider and if I am not "getting fed" or my personal preferences aren't met, I retreat from serving and shift into a **passive, critical role**, looking at the clouds to see if the church environment is perfectly suited for me.
- **Fear of Failure or Perfectionism:** I lack the perfect gifts, afraid of making mistakes in front of others.
- **Relational Friction:** Disagreements, feeling unappreciated, not being recognized
- **Non-ideal church leadership structures. Ministry Conditions will never be perfect.**
Example of Paul who faced all kinds of desertions and abandonment even from his close companions:

- **Demas:** Originally a trusted fellow worker and companion in Rome, Demas famously deserted Paul during his final imprisonment in Rome. (2 Timothy 4:10).
- **John Mark (Mark):** abandoned Paul and Barnabas in Pamphylia to return to Jerusalem. (Acts 13:13)
- **Phygelus and Hermogenes:** Paul singles these two out from the province of Asia, stating they had deserted him, likely due to turning away from his specific teachings under the pressure of local opposition. 2 Tim 1:15
- **The Christians in Asia:** In his final letter, Paul laments that during his first legal defense in Rome, "all forsook me", highlighting a painful season where he was widely abandoned by his followers in the region. 2 Tim 1:15, 2 Tim 4:16
- **Alexander the coppersmith:** Described as causing Paul "much harm," 2 Tim 4:15
- **Hymenaeus and Alexander:** These two men betrayed the core truths of Paul's gospel and thus "shipwrecked their faith" (2 Tim 2: 17-18)
- **False Brethren & False Apostles :** Paul frequently battles false apostles and "false brothers" who sought to undermine his authority, pervert his Gospel (2 Corinthians 11:13, 26)

3. God wants the input of your mind and strength.

Deuteronomy 6: 4-5 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Mathew 22: 37-40 ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

- **Heart:** your desires, emotions, and your passions. It means getting excited and gripped by the thought of God and serving him. your passions and choices with God's will. Passion helps you remain connected and is the driving force to do extraordinary things

- **Soul:** Speaks to your spiritual life and essence. Loving God with your soul means dedicating your life to His purposes and seeking a genuine relationship with Him.
 - **Mind:** Your intellect, thoughts, reasoning and daily meditations. It means pursuing wisdom, meditating on His Word. What pre-occupies you? How engaged are you?
 - **Strength:** Your physical energy, abilities, resources, time, talents, and everyday actions.
- ❖ **God desires conscious, intentional devotion rather than mindless rituals.** Instead of simply going through the motions of religious duties, an engaged mind asks, "what is my input here in order to bring excellent service, bear fruit that will last and bring glory to God?".
 - ❖ Engaging your mind allows you apply wisdom to your daily life, bring in your creativity and make your service a deeply meaningful expression of love rather than a mechanical routine. Using your cognitive faculties helps you discern the best ways to solve problems, steward resources, and minister most effectively

4. Take ownership

Proverbs 29:19 A servant will not be corrected by mere words; For though he understands, he will not respond.

John 15: 14-15 ¹⁴You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

1 Thessalonians 2:9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

2 Thessalonians 3:8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, ⁹not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 ¹⁹For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.

- ❖ Treat God's calling as a deeply vested, personal responsibility rather than just a task. It shifts your focus from merely checking boxes to fully investing your heart, taking initiative, and embracing accountability for the outcomes of your service.
- ❖ **Embrace a Vested Mindset:** Think and act as if the mission is your own, moving from a detached approach to one of sincere commitment and passion.
- ❖ **Take Initiative:** Don't wait for direction on every detail. Identify what needs to be done and take action to execute the vision with speed and purpose.
- ❖ **Own the Outcomes:** Take responsibility for both successes and failures. When challenges arise, focus on finding creative solutions rather than shifting blame.

5. The honor of the greatest, is the honor of the smallest – who is faithful

Romans 12: 3-8 ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

- ❖ In God's kingdom, true success is not measured by climbing a spiritual ladder, but by steadfast obedience. Embracing our current assignment—no matter how big or small—reflects faithful stewardship, where daily devotion to the present task is what pleases the Master.
- ❖ God highly values steadfastness in the mundane tasks over seeking visible achievements or titles.
- ❖ Being reliable in what you hold right now or what is entrusted to you currently naturally readies you for whatever God has next.
- ❖ Serving "heartily as to the Lord" means ultimate priority is to get the Master's pleasure rather than numbers, accolades or titles.

Luke 16: 10-12 ¹⁰ "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

Conclusion:

Romans 12:11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord