



**Speaker:** Matthew Ott

**Series:** Abide: Cultivating Intimacy with Christ

**Sermon Title:** Serving God while Serving Others

**Scripture:** [Matthew 25:24-40](#)

**Main Idea:** Faith in the Lord allows us to trust Him to deliver on His promises through our obedience to his commands by serving Him while serving others.

## OUTLINE

1. Root - Faith and Trust (Hebrews 11:1)
  1. Noah - Genesis 6
  2. Abraham - Genesis 22
  3. Esther - Esther 3-5
  4. Apostles
  5. Woman suffering from a hemorrhage for 12 years (Matthew 9:20–22; Mark 5:24b–34; Luke 8:42b–48)
  6. Lepers
2. Prayer (Matthew 7:7-11)
  1. What does it mean to pray BOLD prayers?
3. Action (Matthew 7:12)
  1. The Golden Rule
  2. Vocation come from the Latin, *vocacio*, meaning "summons," which comes from *vocare*, meaning "to call."
  3. God's calling is a higher calling
  4. "It is possible for people to admire good preaching, and yet to remain in ignorance and unbelief; to be astonished, and yet not sanctified." Matthew Henry
  5. Israelites were stirred during the construction of the temple (Exodus 39:32, 43)
  6. The call of God is not always to a glamorous vocation, and its fruit in the world is often bittersweet. Yet God calls us according to our gifts and talents and directs us to paths of the most useful service to His kingdom.
  7. Matthew 7:21-23; Psalm 51:12

4. Generosity (John 15:12-14)
  1. Giving time to serve others is a generous gift with an everlasting reward
  2. This should be motivated by love
  3. Faith without works is dead

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Where would we be if the heroes of the faith denied the calling? Think of Noah, Moses, Jesus or Paul.
2. What secular groups are serving others that the Church seems to be lagging in the action category? Why do you think this is? Are you comfortable with the world's service for others eclipsing the Church's service for others if true? Do you think that the Church is still setting the bar? Why or why not?
3. What bold (not safe) prayer have you not prayed in fear that it will be a difficult calling, or you aren't looking forward to what areas of needed growth the Lord will reveal? (Think about a safe prayer as God giving you strength (Psalm 27:7) and a bold prayer as God searching your heart and revealing the depths of your depravity (Psalm 139:23-24).)
4. Is a selfish motivation to serve others because it makes you feel good a bad thing? Explain.
5. Do you know of ways that you could serve God by serving others through the needs in the Church? How could Oak Grove Church make the needs more apparent? Would this knowledge move you towards the joy and growth that would result in that service?
6. Do you feel equipped to serve God? (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Amplified Version)
7. What is one practical way that you can start serving the Lord this week? (If you're not currently serving in a ministry at church, or are in a season where you have more available time and would like to serve in an additional way, will you text "SERVE" to 319-453-2065 so our staff can connect with you?)
8. What is one bold (stretch goal, growth enticing, faith filled, joy producing) prayer that you and your community group can pray with you and for you in serving the Lord through His church?
- 9.