

## MOTIVATED TO SERVE – 2

JULY 30, 2023

### REVIEW:

- We were saved to serve (**EX. 9:1**).
- Serving is a matter of the heart (**ROM. 12:11 NIV**).
- A major purpose of life (**MK. 8:35 TLB**).
- Christ's example (**MT 20:28 TLB**).
- It's the best way to use our freedom (**GAL. 5:13 NLT**).
- Reverence and bodily fear (**HEB. 12:28-29**).
- The reward (**MT. 25:21**).
- The secret to greatness (**MT. 20:26 HCSB**).
- Love and gratitude (**JOHN 21:15**).
- To promote unity (**PS. 133:1-3**).

### CONTINUE:                    **Dealing with Excuses**

God has been dealing with our excuses for a long time. Moses focused on his shortcomings, the Israelites saw themselves as grasshoppers, and Jeremiah thought he was too young and immature. God understands our situation and He knows our strengths and weaknesses. If He calls us, He will equip us.

- 1.) I'm too young (**JER. 1:6-7 NLT**). God didn't let Jeremiah use that excuse. David wrote much of the Psalms as a young man, & Paul told young Timothy to not let his youth hinder him.
- 2.) I'm too old. Moses was 80 when he led Israel out of Egypt. Abraham fathered Isaac around 100 years old. Caleb was 85 when he claimed his land. Noah was between 525-545 when they began building the Ark.
- 3.) I've made mistakes (**1 TIM. 1:15 NLT**). If God only used perfect people, who could He use? David, Peter, and Isaiah were used, and their resumes weren't flawless.
- 4.) I have nothing to offer (**1 PET. 4:10 NLT**). Everyone has something to give. The key is to start small by doing what your hand finds to do (**ECCL. 9:10**). Anyone can usher, pray, send a card, help with the homeless or parking lot ministry.
- 5.) I don't have the time (**MT. 6:33 NLT**). If we don't have time for God, it's because we choose not to. It's a priority matter. We all have time for what's important to us.
  - A.) If God took the time to save us from the lake of fire, then He deserves to have some of our time in return.
  - B.) God gave up His Son, who gave up His life, who became our substitute, and invested His all to save us from eternal destruction.
- 6.) I don't know what to do (**IS. 30:21**). God doesn't always give us the complete picture. Usually, it's one step at a time. We must make the first step before we get to the next.
- 7.) I'm afraid (**IS. 41:10**). God told Joshua not to be afraid because He would always be with him wherever he would go.
  - A.) Being afraid is no excuse not to do something for God. He's not going to send us to Africa if we help out in the parking lot or make a meal for someone.

**Conclusion:** Everyone can do something for God. It's important to remember our lives are to be lived with eternity in mind. This will help us stay focused and continue serving God no matter what life brings our way.