

Title: Embracing Servanthood: A Shift in Perspective

- Introduction

- Greeting to the congregation and introduction of the central message: Say yes with conviction.
- Highlight the need for a change in perspective from volunteers to servants in our spiritual community.

- Main Point 1: The Power of Language in Our Faith

- Discussion of terminology difference, shifting from volunteers to servants.
- Scriptural reference to Philippians 2:5 and the example of Christ as a servant.
- The power of words to either nurture or destroy and their impact on our spiritual identity.

- Main Point 2: The Essence of Servanthood in Christ's Teachings

- Parable of the construction workers' different perspectives – laying bricks vs. building a cathedral.
- Emphasis on every action contributing to the greater purpose of the Church.
- The example of Jesus, who came to serve and not to be served, offering his life as a ransom.

- Main Point 3: Service as an Act of Worship

- Our service represents our duty, devotion, and joy towards pleasing Christ.
- Differentiating personal satisfaction from divine affirmation.
- The call to serve in the Church, transcending personal pain and understanding the servanthood envisioned by Jesus.

- Main Point 4: Cultural and Historical Perspectives on Servanthood

- Addressing resistance due to the legacy of slavery.
- Distinguishing between historical servitude and biblical servanthood.
- Aligning with the higher calling of Christ-like servanthood, beyond personal pain and cultural stigmas.

- Main Point 5: The Transformation of Self in Service

- The significance of servitude as an act of worship to God, not just an organizational role.
- Releasing personal agendas and embracing the humility and sacrifice inherent in true servanthood.
- Encouragement to serve with zeal, love, and selflessness and to build the Kingdom.

- Conclusion

- Reiteration of the sermon's core message: the transformative power of saying yes to being servants, not volunteers.
- Call to a solemn commitment to emulate the selflessness of Christ in all aspects of life.
- A hopeful closing that our servitude will be recognized by our Master with the words: Well done, my good and faithful servant.
- Closing prayer: asking for the strength to embrace our identity as servants and to work for God's glory.

Dear friends,

Today, I stand before you to instill the power of two simple yet profound words: "say yes." Let's emphasize the essence of these words - "say yes" with belief and conviction. As we embark on this transformative journey, let's reflect on the significance of shifting our language from "volunteers" to "servants."

The term "volunteer" is pervasive in our societal discourse, but as we delve deeper into the scriptures, especially Jesus's teachings, we find no mention of "volunteers." Rather, Jesus calls upon us to be servants. The distinction holds great import, for our words wield immense power, as they hold the potential to nurture or destroy.

In Philippians 2:5, we are urged to embody the spirit of Christ Jesus, who humbly took upon himself the form of a servant. Understanding this, we realize that the concept of servanthood is integral to our faith. It aligns with the very essence of God's mission to save humankind. Just as God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit collaborated to fulfill this mission, we too are called to work as a team, in harmony with the divine purpose.

Allow me to share a parable - a wise man visited a construction site where two workers were laboring. One saw his task as merely laying bricks, while the other perceived it as building a majestic cathedral. The perspective shift, from mundane tasks to the grander vision, is what we strive for as a community - to understand that every action, however small, contributes to the greater purpose of the Church.

We often associate the term "volunteers" with those who work for non-profit organizations or social clubs. However, as a church, let's comprehend the difference and embrace the profundity of "servanthood" over "volunteerism." Jesus's own example illustrates this, as he came not to be served but to serve, offering his life as a ransom for many.

It's crucial to recognize that our service is not simply for an organization, but for Christ Himself. The spirit behind being a servant is one of duty, devotion, and joy derived from pleasing the Master. The satisfaction comes not from personal gratification but from the affirmation of our Lord - "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Moreover, it's essential to understand the cultural and historical implications associated with the concept of servanthood. The painful legacy of slavery around the world can evoke resistance to embracing servanthood. However, we must differentiate between the historical context of slavery and the servanthood envisioned by Jesus. By doing so, we transcend our personal pain to align with the higher calling of servanthood exemplified by Christ.

As followers of Christ, we are called not to a social club but to the Church of Christ, where we serve our Lord and Master. Everything we do, whether big or small, is an act of worship to Him. Our servitude is not dictated by personal preferences but by the higher purpose of advancing the Kingdom.

Therefore, let us approach our service with the zeal to please our Master, to portray His love and selflessness, and to build His kingdom on earth. It's not about our passion but about crucifying it to align with Jesus's passion. As we strive to serve Jesus and His people, let's release our personal agendas and embrace the humility and sacrifice of true servanthood.

In conclusion, remember that as we engage in the service of Christ, we are not merely giving our time; we are offering our entire lives. The call to serve is not a casual invitation; it's a solemn commitment to emulate the selflessness of our Lord.

So, I invite you to reflect on these words and ponder the profound difference between being a volunteer and being a servant. For when we understand and embrace the spirit of servanthood, we become vessels of transformation, manifesting the very essence of the Gospel.

Let us be not just members of an organization; let us be servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, working diligently for His glory.

May we hear the resounding affirmation from our Master - "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Amen.