

21st CENTURY CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Monday/Tuesday

PURPOSE OF THE DEVOTION: To give you every opportunity to let God speak to your heart about the church (that's you) in the most personal way.

WHAT TO DO: Read the 1st devotion in the early part of the week (Monday or Tuesday). Listen to the **21stCC Podcast on Wednesday**. Read the 2nd devotion in the later part of the week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday).

When was the last time you came to church thinking about how you could best serve others? Sadly this has become a very foreign attitude within the Church. We have designed church services so the majority of the congregation does not have to do anything. The kids are taken care of, someone leads a time of worship for everyone, and someone else breaks down the Scripture. Everything is geared toward the convenience and comfort of the congregation. It is a shockingly consumerist arrangement no one seems to even question.

There is a huge flaw in this system! God did not intend for His Church to be a body of consumers. His Word says He uniquely gifted each person with something to contribute (1 Cor. 12). If only a few people are exercising their gifts, the body will be weaker for it. Can you imagine if you had two healthy legs but only ever used one of them? Sure, you could make some kind of crutch or hop to get around, but you would be nowhere near your full potential. It would be ridiculous to settle for that limited range of motion when you have the ability to run. But that's what we're doing in the Church when we have only a couple of people using their gifts; we're handicapping ourselves, and we're never going to reach our full potential.

WEEKLY KEY THOUGHT: *ONLY WHEN WE BECOME SERVANTS WILL THE CHURCH LOOK LIKE WHAT JESUS INTENDED.*

Pray: Heavenly Father, give me the courage to step out and begin to use my giftedness in the church, even when it's uncomfortable. You me to love to serve others!

21st CENTURY CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Thursday/Friday/Saturday

PURPOSE OF THE DEVOTION: To give you every opportunity to let God speak to your heart about the church (that's you) in the most personal way.

WHAT TO DO: Read the 1st devotion in the early part of the week (Monday or Tuesday). Listen to the **21stCC Podcast on Wednesday**. Read the 2nd devotion in the later part of the week (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday).

Why do we tend to view serving and considering others more important as a burden or a task rather than a joy. In reality, focusing only on yourself is the most miserable way to live. Being a servant is not a box you need to check once a week in order to be a good Christian; servanthood is supposed to be our identity as a follower of Jesus. It is a lifestyle, and the people who live it are often the most joyful people in the room.

Think of the most servant-hearted person you know. Imagine if every person in our church loved serving like that.

Today's culture is so self-focused, we don't take selfishness as seriously as we ought. Just as servanthood is beautiful to God, selfishness is ugly to Him. It is a sin we need to be willing to confront in ourselves and an issue we need to be willing to call out in others in a loving way. Becoming a Christian is taking on the name of Christ, who is the ultimate servant. We can't feed into a culture of selfishness in the Church; we risk cultivating a group of "Christians" who think it is okay not to be Christlike.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK GOD HAS BEEN SAYING TO YOU THIS WEEK ABOUT THE CHURCH?
