

Settle it!

Settle your **SERVICE**

Philippians 2:25-30

Jesus' sacrificial servant **EPAPHRODITUS**

His name means 'a favorite of Aphrodite' – the Greek goddess of **LOVE** and **LUCK**

Serving is all about the **GOSPEL**

- 'my **brother**' - personal close friend
- 'fellow **worker**' – spread the message of Jesus
- 'fellow **soldier**' – carried out his mission with grit
- 'your **messenger**' – small 'a' Apostle to Philippians
- 'your **minister to my need**' – provided sacred service

Serving is all about **RELATIONSHIPS**

Epaphroditus served God by serving God's **PEOPLE**:

- Philippians were distressed about Paul, and Epaphroditus
- Epaphroditus was concerned about Paul and the Philippians
- Paul was troubled about Epaphroditus and the Philippians

Serving involves **RISK** and **SACRIFICE**

Epaphroditus unashamedly labeled himself '**a servant of Jesus**'

- Risk from **ROBBERS** and **ROMANS**
- Sacrifices on behalf of someone **OUTSIDE** of himself
- Paul says to **RECEIVE** and **RESPECT** men like Epaphroditus.

What '**Jesus**' relationships are you engaged in? How are you serving God by serving His people?

What sacrifices / risks are being made to carry out the mission of Jesus?

Auburn Grace Community Church – March 13th, 2022

Life Group Discussion Questions – March 13, 2022

Philippians 2:25, 29 *But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; ... Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard;*

DISCOVER (Read Philippians 2:19-30)

1. Using the Philippians 2 passage as a guide, what is serving all about? How does the message of the gospel play into serving? Why should serving go beyond the walls of the church?
2. Taking part in a new or changing role of service may involve risk and will involve some level of sacrifice. What has been your experience in this regard? What justifies taking a risk that involves sacrifice? What risks are you taking now in your life for Jesus' mission? Why does serving feel like a risk even when you are convinced that you are following God's direction?
3. What is your definition of the word "integrity"? Why is it imperative to have consensus on this idea?
4. What does it mean to have a "servant's heart"? (see Galatians 5:13) Describe someone that you have encountered that demonstrated a heart for serving.

EXPLORE

1. Read John 21:15-17. What was Jesus telling Peter to do? Jesus emphasized his position with Peter through repetition, but He also repeated the command to "tend My sheep". Why would Jesus place such great emphasis on tending sheep? From this scripture and the life of Jesus, how do you think He would define serving?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13. What should the condition of your heart be when serving? What might need to change if that is not your experience? Have you ever served and not felt your heart was right? What did you learn from the experience?
3. Read Mark 9:35. Who should we serve? Should we have an expectation of being recognized by those we serve? How should we hope to be recognized if not through increased stature or social standing?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:10. Are we obligated to serve? The fruit of our service may not be obvious. What does Galatians 6:9 say about giving up? What should you do if a particular role turns into a struggle? Have you experienced perseverance in serving and then seen encouraging results as time passed?

EXPERIENCE

1. What qualifications should someone have to serve in church? Can all believers serve God in some way? How do spiritual gifts and talents play into serving?
2. Share with the group rewarding experiences from serving. Share with the group how you have been blessed by the service of others. When possible, have you routinely thanked a person or group that has served you?
3. As a group, name the ways that you see people serving at Auburn Grace.

PRAY

Pray...Father, open our eyes to the example of Jesus set by serving the flock. May the Spirit stir our hearts into action for the benefit of your children. Amen.

Action...Take advantage of church resources to find a serving role such as Workshop 4 – Serving as a Member which is part of Connection Sunday scheduled for May 1. Thank a servant!