

Getting Connected through Service, SJLC, 10/07/07, 19th a Pentecost

Grace, mercy & peace from God our Father & our Lord & Savior, JC. Amen

TEXT-Luke 17:5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

6 The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you."

PRAY-Help us to see the relationship between service & faith. Amen.

DANNY WUERFFEL was a successful football player-

In 1996 he won the Heisman Trophy as quarterback of U of Florida-

Went on to play National Football League-

He was also known for his deep religious commitments-

Today he is executive director of Desire Street Ministries

which is devoted to community & spiritual development in poor city neighborhoods across the South-

Wuerffel unique definition of success-

He believes being SIGNIFICANT more important being successful. Significance comes from answering God's call to help the poor, orphans, & widows & work for justice for the oppressed-His goal is be faithful rather successful.

I. The joy of serving.

Although we may not serve as dramatically as Danny Wuerffel, we too

know the joy of serving. Serving others gives us a good FEELING and that feeling is powerful. It gives significance to our lives we don't get from success.

I felt terrific last week-end-I asked myself why?

All related servant hood-

Began with standing along route 51 & WELCOMING HOME troops-

T-shirts read "All gave some. Some gave all"-That's service.

Those standing by me had as big a need to thank the troops as troops to be thanked-very heart felt-

Sat. football game PLANO-

I taught & confirmed quarterback for Plano-

Although team I supporting lost, I was proud Brian &
glad I made a contribution to his life-

Sunday I enjoyed delicious picnic @ FUNK'S GROVE-

Weather was perfect-Servants prepared the food.

Last Wednesday PASTOR'S CLASS we shared our heart hungers
which often acts of service-

Mornings with PROFESSORS great service to our community-

Yesterday successful BLOODDRIVE in the Fellowship Hall.

Outside volunteers were improving the playground.

Our chairs are adorn with quilts for LWR used blankets/clothing-

Worship led by COJ BAND who prepares, practices & leads as act of
service.

Through these & many other ways our lives become significant through
service. We become aware needs of others & do can respond-

Service great way get CONNECTED to God & others-

II. The Challenge of Service.

But what happens when FEELING is gone?

What happen when we suffer from compassion fatigue?

Maybe no one notices or appreciates what we do-

Let's look at some EXAMPLES:

Our tour this summer I noticed man letters VT cap-

Familiar but not recognized- realized when past him-

Next time I saw him I asked, "Virginia Tech?"

"Yes"-our daughter SENIOR this year-

her graduation very somber-

These parents gave themselves in service to daughter so she could
have a good education. Their efforts ruined by act of violence-

We welcomed home TROOPS week ago-

According radio not easy adjustment for families-

Often suffer from 3Ds-death, divorce & depression-

Person speaking divorced from husband-

Service comes at a price-

The challenge of service seen all 3 LESSONS:

HABAKKUK cries out from exile, “O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?”
justice never prevails-

2nd LESSON Paul encouraging Timothy face hardship & persecution-

GOSPEL Jesus tells disciples about meaning of discipleship-
We should include 4 vss. preceding the Gospel.
Do not cause little ones stumble-If do, it would be better to have a milestone around your neck & be thrown into the sea-
Forgive as many as 7 times/day-
End Gospel we are have the humility of slave-

No wonder disciples requested, “INCREASE our FAITH”-
They knew they couldn’t meet challenge on own-
Serving may give us a good feeling, but sooner or later the feeling ends-

III. The Strength for Service.

I think verse GOSPEL can help us-
Apostles ask Jesus increase their faith-

Jesus says, “If you had faith the size of MUSTARD SEED,
You could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted & planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

Mustard seed smallest seed-in other words-

ALITTLE faith can do IMPOSSIBLE-

Faith not a pill or commodity as apostles imply-relationship-

Not a possession but a disposition-

We are to have so much faith, we are willing move from master to slave-
When our service is challenged, we can remember our power is in our faith not ourselves. A little seed of faith can do the impossible.

Look at more examples:

Beautiful quilts made SCRAPS of material-

But one scrap added to others can keep someone warm-

Vs. before text talks about FORGIVING-

Very difficult wrong serious- yet seen news can be done-
Year ago AMISH community Lancaster, Pennsylvania, experienced
death 6 innocent children by someone took own life-
recently Amish community provided house his widow-
A mustard seed of faith can do the impossible.

Gospel couple weeks ago said, "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much. Fred Craddock illustrates this by saying, "Most of us will not this week christen a ship, write a book, end a war, appoint a cabinet, dine with the queen, convert a nation, or be burned at the stake. More likely the week will present no more than a chance to give a cup of water, write a note, visit a nursing home, vote for a county commissioner, teach a Sunday school class, share a meal, tell a child a story, go to choir practice, and feed the neighbor's cat."
The little mustard seed is the start-

I began talking about Danny Wuerffel-

After he started "Desire Street Ministries" his home New Orleans was flooded to the roof. Danny not know if his staff & students were alive. The weeks after storm were incredibly difficult-
Went to Grace Lutheran Church, sat at piano, played & sang-

Words of hymn, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" jumped out at him. "His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the raging flood through every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. On Christ the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."

He wept & sang-He wept & sang-
Jesus Christ carried Danny & family through storm-

Second lesson Paul writes to TIMOTHY, "God did not give us a spirit of TIMIDITY, but rather a spirit of power & love & of self-control-

May a mustard seed of faith give us power to do the impossible in serving God & others. Amen.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.