

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
“Good News 101 – Basic Essentials of Faith & GNC Vision, Mission, and Values”
Serving Relieves Suffering
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10-26-25

OVERVIEW – We’re talking about who we are as a church (Why do we exist? What is our purpose?), what we believe, what difference what we believe makes in our lives, and what is our motivation undergirding our beliefs and behaviors.

- **Vision** – *“to experience and express LOVE from God and to others.”*
 - **Verse** – The verse that undergirds our vision is, *Galatians 5:6b, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*
- **Mission** – Our mission is *“to connect with people and build relationships through community workshops, neighborhood-focused ministry, serving local needs, mentoring, and worship.”*

THE GOOD NEWS

The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By His mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day. I say to myself, “The Lord is my inheritance; therefore I will hope in Him!” – Lamentations 3:22-24

- **SPECIFICALLY How?** For he (God) has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. - Colossians 1:13-14

GNC BELIEFS

1. I’m really broken and I need help.
2. Jesus is perfect and He is my help.
3. Jesus is the only way to healing in my relationship with God.
4. The Holy Spirit is my power to live as a follower of Jesus.
5. God calls me to submit to His authority and to serve His Church

GNC BEHAVIORS (as a result of what we believe)

1. **Serving others** (valuing others greater than myself)
2. Reconciling relationships (building bridges, not burning them)
3. Giving generously (blessing others with my time, talent, and treasure)

LAST WEEK... 5. God calls me to submit to His authority and to serve His Church

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **especially to those who belong to the household of faith (family of believers).**”*

– Galatians 6:9-10

- If your brother is in need... If your brother or sister is in need...

Every family has chores to be done (like to do vs. have to do).

- **TEAMS (Community, Care, Prayer)**
 - Set Up / Break Down
 - Welcome / Hospitality
 - Children / Youth
 - Preaching / Teaching
 - Worship (Music / Tech)
 - Food

“Crockpots & Casseroles” Meals Ministry

Final Thoughts.. Serving others is best done and motivated in response to Jesus' service to us. When we serve, we grow in our relationship with God and each other, and we get to be a part of building God's Kingdom here on earth. Saying "Yes" to God is always the best decision.

THIS WEEK...

Key Thought: Serving Relieves Suffering.

Serving (mercy) is a natural response to those who have experienced mercy.

Mercy (def): compassionate treatment of those in distress; compassion shown to the undeserving

Mercy is a Response

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. - 1 Peter 2:9,10

God's Kindness is our starting point

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- Ephesians 4:32

- Our mercy is activated by the mercy we've received.
- *“Streams of mercy, never ceasing...”* - from the hymn that we sang earlier in the service, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing.”

God's Kindness to the unthankful and evil

“But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. **But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return;** and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. **For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”** - Luke 6:32-36

Dispensers of Grace

When we serve, we become dispensers of grace who point people to Jesus.

- How unusual is it to be served by someone you don't know (stranger) or to be served when you know you don't deserve it (enemy)?
- We're like PEZ dispensers. 😊 Is the flavor of candy your life is dispensing yummy or yucky? Are you a dispenser of grace? What are you dispensing?

For Believers... Mercy is a natural response. (see "Sheep & Goats" Matt. 25:34-40)

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world (see Eph. 1:4). ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' ³⁷ **"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?'** ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' – Matthew 25:34-40

Serving Relieves Suffering

One of God's primary purposes in serving is to relieve the suffering of others.

- Finding opportunities to serve is actually very easy, because everyone is suffering from something (i.e., loneliness, sickness, poverty, fear, worry, etc.).

God's Heart of Mercy

- **"If there is a poor man among you, within any of the gates in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs."** – Deut. 15:7-8
- **Blessed is he who considers the poor;** the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. - Psalm 41:1

God's Mercy Towards Me

- **For I am poor and needy,** and my heart is wounded within me. - Psalm 109:22
- The Lord protects the simple hearted; when **I was in great need, he saved me.**
- Psalm 116:6

What does suffering look like?

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| 1. Pajamas (foster care children) | 6. Connection (loneliness) |
| 2. Food for your family | 7. Encouragement (mentoring) |
| 3. Visiting the sick | 8. Sponsorship (recovery) |
| 4. Supporting the caregiver | 9. Noticing (the person near you) |
| 5. Providing transportation | 10. Prayer for the hurting |

Your Circle - Who is suffering in your circle of relationships and/or influence?

OBSTACLES – 1) Time 2) Fear 3) Interest

1. Time – “*I don’t have time.*”

- Giving of ourselves and of our time is always the **first obstacle** to overcome when following Jesus.
- Often times, when opportunities to serve arise, it happens at times that are **not convenient** to our plans and our schedule.
- **Serving gives us the opportunity to exercise faith in the face of time.**

2. Fear – “*What if...?*”

- There are a lot of different angles of fear that we can face as relates to serving – unknown, rejection, failure, safety, etc.
- **Serving gives us the opportunity to exercise faith in the face of our fears.**

“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

- Isaiah 41:10

3. Interest – “*This is not something that I want to do.*”

- It’s not uncommon to not have a natural interest in serving the need that’s presented.
- **Serving gives the opportunity to “*put the interests of others ahead of our own interests*” (Philippians 2:4), and more deeply experience the love of Jesus as we provide relief to those who are suffering.**

GROWTH

- **LOVE** - When we sacrifice of ourselves and serve the needs of others, **we experience Jesus and we grow in our experience of love from Him and for Him.**

FAITH - **We grow in our faith**, by the power of God’s Spirit through prayer, His Word, and sacrificially serving the needs of others.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

1. Serving others involves connecting with other people and discovering areas of need.

- Halloween is a great opportunity to connect with other people.

2. Connecting is the first step to serving.

Once a door of relationship is established, that door can be opened to discover ways that we can serve and bless other people. And when a person who has experienced the love and the mercy of Christ has an opportunity to extend that love and mercy to someone else, we become a relational bridge that now has the possibility of helping connect them to Jesus. Serving relieves suffering. When we serve to relieve suffering, we become a conduit of grace that connects others to Jesus, the One who served us, suffered for us, and brought relief to us.

3. When suffering is relieved, Jesus is made known, and joy is made full.

And THAT’S Good News!