# Lay reader talk, week 2

## Called to Serve

Paul wrote the following to the believers in Ephesus: *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10). The instruction is clear that we are to render service and not sit in idleness.

Matthew 20:28 reads, *“…even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."”* The very nature of Jesus, as revealed in Scripture, is the example that should be our encouragement to serve others. Acknowledging Christ for Who He is and what He has done to redeem us as sinners, we begin to understand His nature and purpose for us. As forgiven people, we have the redemptive purpose of living a life of faithful service to others in Jesus’ name. Christ’s love for us and our love for Him make our lives of servanthood possible. Through a loving relationship with Him, we are willing to live lives in faithful service.

As God’s people, we are called to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37). The key to our service is to live with an attitude that is God-centered. With God as our focus, we will want to love and serve Him and others. Unfortunately, because we are by nature self-centered, our interest is in serving ourselves instead of serving others. When we succumb to the temptation of putting ourselves first, we place ourselves in the center of life, and we become unaware of and less interested in the needs of others. With a God-centered attitude, we will seek opportunities to serve others who are in need.

Jesus said in Luke 4:8, *“You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”* Our prayer is that God will enable and strengthen us to put Him first so we can faithfully respond to His call to serve.