

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

In today's verse we read that Jesus said that He "*did not come to be served, but to serve.*" Yet, how many go to church each week, always wanting to be served by the church, but never serving in the church, or even outside of the church? They go to church with the mindset of Jesus cleansed them of their sins, but they need more; they need more money, they have a hangnail, they need a new job, they need a new car, they need a

Or how many treat church like it's a restaurant. They go with the intent of getting a good meal with entertainment for a cheap price. "*Feed me the word of God, let's sing a couple songs and I'll throw a few bucks in the offering plate to pay for your efforts.*" But if they don't like it, then the mindset is, "*I'll go somewhere else where they have that food that makes me feel good about myself.*" Some even complain that it takes too long, and those are the ones who want fast food, place my order, and have it ready in a few minutes sermons, because they have the rest of the weekend to play and they don't have a lot of time for this church stuff, so give me a quick message that makes me feel good about myself, but not a long message that actually digs deep into my heart or that will change my life for the better.

The problem with that is, the church in a way is like a restaurant, but not a restaurant where we are being served a meal, because it's all about us. But rather, we should all be in the kitchen or out on the floor, helping to prepare for those who do come for a good meal, including those who are bringing their kids in for a good meal as well, and not a Happy Meal with a prize inside.

We have all been to a restaurant that we really like and have told others to go check it out. And don't we do the same thing with the church that we go to, telling others how great it is? So if people are visiting, trying to decide if it's a place they want to go to each week, why are we not taking part in the preparation for the Sunday or midweek service, instead of being consumers in the church every week? Shouldn't we be participants in what's happening on Sunday? Now it doesn't mean everyone should serve every week in the church... unless your heart is to do that. Yet how many have never served, say once a month or once a year? Oh how we have gotten so far away from what the church is to be, which is a place where the Saints (as a believer you are a Saint) are to be equipped to do the work, and not to be catered to by the church.

Have you ever thought about that? How many go to church each week and are equipped to do the work, sharing the gospel or being a part in the church, yet they do nothing with that equipping that they receive? It would be like being given the tools to do our jobs each week, yet never doing our job with those tools provided for us, so we never prosper in our jobs. In the same way, they do not see the kingdom of God prosper because they don't take a part in building it.

Jesus never said, you know what Peter, I don't feel like going to the cross to die for the world, why don't you go do it instead. I'm just not feeling it right now. But Jesus didn't say or even think that. And we know that Jesus came to the earth to die for our sins, but also, He "*did not*

come to be served, but to serve” and if our Lord and Savior, Jesus, came to serve others, and we say we want to be like Him, let’s be like Him and start serving others.

Think about it, how do we feel when we are working hard at our jobs, and everyone else is kicking back, taking it easy, talking and having fun with no work getting done? Not that it’s wrong to talk to others in church and enjoy time with them, but there are also things that need to be done, and we are ALL, not just a chosen few, but once again, we are ALL called to serve, not to be served, in the church and outside of the church. If you think about it, Jesus served not only in the temple, but a lot of His serving happened outside of the temple, and not just to believers, but to all who would listen and would believe in Him.

† **Psalm 100:2** *Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.*

† **1 Peter 5:2 (NLT2)** *Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.*