

**SHAPED FOR SERVING GOD**  
**The Purpose Driven Life, Part 5**  
May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

God made you to make a difference

Job 10:8 (NIV) "Your hands shaped me and made me."

Spiritual gifts      Heart      Abilities      Personality      Experiences

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) "Each one should use whatever gift he's received to serve others."

My 1<sup>st</sup> purpose is to know and love God – Worship

My 2<sup>nd</sup> purpose is to love God's family – Fellowship

My 3<sup>rd</sup> purpose is to become like Christ – Discipleship

My 4<sup>th</sup> Purpose Is To Serve God By Serving Others - Ministry

Ministry simply means using my S.H.A.P.E. to help somebody else in the name of God

Matthew 20:28 (LB) "[Jesus said] Your attitude must be like My own, for I did not come to be served, but to serve..."

Your S.H.A.P.E. determines your ministry or area of service

**Learning To Serve Like Jesus**

**1. Serving like Jesus means being available**

Matthew 20:30-32 (NIV) "Two blind men... shouted, 'Lord, have mercy on us!'... Jesus stopped and called them, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' He asked."

If you want to be used by God, if you want to serve God, you must be willing to be interrupted

Proverbs 3:28 (GN) "Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now."

***3 Barriers That Keep Us From Being Available***

**1. Self-centeredness**

Philippians 2:4 (TM) "Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand."

The number one enemy of compassion and serving is busyness

**2. Perfectionism**

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT) "If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done."

Practice "the good enough principle" – it doesn't have to be perfect for God to bless it

### 3. Materialism

Luke 16:13 (NIV) "No servant can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money."

You can get so busy taking care of things, you don't have time to take care of people

### 2. **Serving like Jesus means being** grateful

John 11:41-42 (NIV) "Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here...'"

Psalms 100:2 (KJ) "Serve the Lord with gladness."

2 Timothy 1:9 (LB) "It is He who saved us and chose us for His holy work not because we deserved it but because that was His plan..."

### *2 Barriers That Get In The Way Of Serving God*

**First Barrier:** Comparing & criticizing

Romans 14:4 (GW) "Who are you to criticize someone else's servant? The Lord will determine whether His servant has been successful."

**Second Barrier:** Wrong motivations

Matthew 6:1 (CEV) "When you do good deeds, don't try to show off. If you do, you won't get a reward from your Father in heaven."

### 3. **Serving like Jesus means being** faithful

John 17:4 (NIV) "I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do."

You may retire from your job, but you never retire from ministry  
1 Corinthians 4:2 (GN) "The one thing required of servants is that they be faithful..."

What you do in Jesus' name, no matter how small, matters  
1 Corinthians 15:58 (TM) "Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for Him is a waste of time or effort."

Remember the difference between significance & prominence – what you don't see may be more important than what you do see

Don't mistake anonymous with insignificant

God brought you to New Hope because He knew you had something to give back

The best use of life is to invest it in that which is going to outlast it

One day you'll stand before God, and He will ask you what you did with your S.H.A.P.E.  
Hebrews 6:10 (NLT) "He will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to Him by caring for other Christians."

The most important thing you'll ever do is serving God in ministry  
Matthew 25:21 (NIV) "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things so; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"