

LOVE OUT LOUD

Day Six – Love That Serves

Scripture: “*The greatest among you will be your servant.*” – Matthew 23:11 (NIV)

When we think of love, our minds often go to feelings, words, or big gestures. But Jesus reminds us that true greatness — and true love — is found in serving. Serving doesn't always mean grand acts or life-changing sacrifices. Often, it's found in the small, quiet ways we show up for one another.

A group of friends and I had to run to Savannah this weekend to find me another Gold Dress. During the car ride we were discussing ways we would want to serve around the holidays and especially Christmas. We were talking about how our family will be drawing a name and then depositing funds into a group amount so we can help the residents at nursing homes have an enjoyable Christmas. We chose nursing homes because Natalie has been working in nursing homes since 10th grade. Most recently she moved to a hospital and doesn't care much for that position, so she is going back into hospice care as soon as possible. We also talked about serving food. Here in Appling County we have the Apping Hope Center. They always need help serving food on a weekly basis and funds to purchase food. The number of people they currently serve is incredible but they always need help with food and serving.

Love out loud looks like:

- Doing the dishes or folding laundry without being asked.
- Calling or visiting someone who's lonely.
- Holding the door open for a stranger with a smile.
- Letting someone go ahead of you in the checkout line.
- Offering to babysit for a tired parent.
- Bringing a meal to someone recovering from surgery.

- Writing a handwritten note of encouragement.
- Paying for the person behind you in line.
- Praying with someone who is carrying a heavy burden.
- Volunteering your time at church or in the community.

These simple acts may feel small, but in the Kingdom of God, nothing done in love is wasted.

Jesus modeled this for us when He washed His disciples' feet — the task of a servant. He, the Son of God, bent low to serve because love never exalts itself, it humbles itself. When we serve, we reflect His heart.

And here's the beauty: when we serve others, we also shift our own perspective. Serving takes our focus off ourselves, our problems, and our frustrations, and it opens our eyes to the needs around us. It fills us with purpose. It spreads joy. It multiplies love.

Reflection:

- Where in my daily life can I choose to serve others in small but meaningful ways?
- Do I sometimes wait for “big” opportunities to love, instead of embracing the small ones right in front of me?
- How can I model Christ's humility by putting someone else's needs before my own?

Prayer: “Jesus, thank You for showing me that real love serves. Teach me to see the opportunities You place in front of me each day to love out loud through simple acts of kindness. May my serving not be about recognition, but about reflecting Your heart. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen.”