



Sermon  
Rev. Lang Yang

**“Make Me A Servant”**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church – Chugiak, Alaska  
Deacon Commissioning of Seng Chang and Sam Chang  
1-21-18

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

**Matthew 20:28** *“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* This is the word of God. (Cross reference – Matthew 8:20; 20:27; 26:28; Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27; John 13:13; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:7; 1 Timothy 2:6; Titus 2:14))

Illustration “Elvis Presley – The King of Rock and Roll”



For three weeks, Elvis’ album of greatest hits has been the number one album in the nation, 25 years after he died. Now in spite of enormous success, Elvis was, according to friends, an unfulfilled and unhappy man. He died of obesity and drug dependency at the age of 42. And in an interview with his wife, Priscilla, she said this about her husband: “Elvis never came to terms with who he was meant to be or what his purpose in life was. He thought he was here for a reason, maybe to preach, maybe to serve, maybe to save, maybe to care for people. That agonizing desire was always with him and he knew he wasn’t fulfilling it. So he’d go on stage and he wouldn’t have to think about it.” Elvis didn’t have a clue where to begin to look. In a sense, he

was lost. Elvis felt like he was here to do something, to serve, to preach, to save...to do something with his life, but he just couldn’t quite figure it out, said his wife. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, God’s did not created us to be hope to do something but he shaped us and prepared us in advance to serve Him and others.

I. God made you to make a difference. And what matters is not how long you live, but how you live. It doesn’t matter if you are rich or poor, famous or not. What matters is not the duration of your life, but the donation of your life. In this world, we’re all meant to give something back.



We’re created to serve, we’re saved to serve, we’re gifted to serve, we’re shaped to serve. I came to Alaska in 2010, and did a ministry survey. In 2013, God’s pointed the Hmong people to Our Redeemer. In 2014, two men Seng and Sam step and said, “Make Me A Servant” *“Here am I, send me.”* (Isaiah 6:8) They both have been on the deacon training since 2014

and finally complete in August 2017. They both being interview and exam and ready to be commission.  
(Show serving God by serving others)



Every Christian is called to different purpose in life of serving God. Like Worship, fellowship, and discipleship, your fourth purpose in life is “Ministry” that is to **serve God by serving others.**” You were created to serve God and the way you serve God is by serving other people. Now, some people want to serve God; but they just don’t want to serve others. The only way you can serve God is by serving others. (Show helping other people)



The word “Ministry” is usually used to describe the pastoral ministry of the Church. God calls pastors to proclaim the Gospel and administer the Sacraments. But the word “ministry” can also be used to describe the work and service of every Christian. All of us can use our gifts and talents to help other people. Any time you use your talents, your abilities, your background, your experiences to help somebody else, it is called “services.”

That make you a servant. All of us are called to ministry is to serve in one way or another. But most of us will say “I’m not called to ministry.” (Show do not disturb sign)



Rather most of us will say, “I’d like to be used by God. I’d like Him to be in my life. I’d like to serve God, but I’m just not available. I’m too busy! And because I’m so busy, I don’t have time to serve. I’ve got my agenda, my plans, my dreams, my goals, my ambitions.” Some people will hang a “do not disturb sign” on the door of their heart, “Do Not Disturb.” People do it all the time. “I’ve got my priority. I’ve got my life going here, so don’t disturb me for the needs of other people.” If you want to be used by God, if you want to serve God, you must be willing to be interrupted. You can say to God, “God, make me a servant.” Let God’s word come into your heart, let

Him interrupt you for some moments that you may serve Him. Most of Jesus’ ministry and most of Jesus’ miracles were interruptions. All the people he healed – the blind man, the lame man, the sick people, the paralyzed man, the dead child – all of them were interruptions. It doesn’t matter how busy you are, you can stopped and serve others.

II. God prepare us when He gives us an assignment to do something, He never gives it to us without equipping us first. (Show SHAPE)



**Job 10:8** says, “*Your hands shaped me and made me...*” God uses the word shape in you. The word ‘S.H.A.P.E.’ mean: **Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences.** God uniquely shapes you, different from anybody else in the world, for a purpose. And that purpose is to serve him and one another. God made you unique and your uniqueness is not for your benefit. (Show special gift)



The Apostle Peter write, “*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.*” (1 Peter 4:10). Your talents are not for your benefit. Your purpose in life is to be what God made you to be. And he gave you gifts and talents and abilities and background and experiences and all these things for the benefit of other people, to be used by serving. God not only created us for service, he gave us a model. To serve like Jesus, we have to serve gratefully. Don’t get the **wrong motivations.** Jesus said, “*Be careful not to*

*do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.*” (Matthew 6:1). Wrong motivation is showing off. Self-promotion and servant hood don’t mix, but it’s easy to get them mixed up. A lot of our service, it can be self-serving at times. We serve to get others to like us. We serve to be admired. We serve to achieve our own goals. We serve as sort of a bargaining with God. We will say, “God, I’ll serve You and You take care of me.” We’re serving, but all the

time we're serving, we're thinking about how noble we are. We're humble, but all the time we're thinking pride fully about how humble we are! All kinds of wrong motivations. (Show Billy Graham)



A long times ago two teenage boys tried to come into a church service at night. The church was fill, so they turned around and decided to leave because they couldn't find a seat. But one usher said, "Come on, guys. I'll find you a seat." And that usher personally escorted them down to the center and set them in the middle and found them two seats. That night both of those boys accepted Christ and became Christians. One of them was Billy Graham who has now led millions of people to Christ. (Show people serving the church)



Do you know the name of the person that greeted you when coming in to Church? Do you know the names of your organist? Do you know the people who stuffed the bulletin you're holding? Do you know the person who clearing the snow on the parking lot, vacuum the floor, cleaned the seat, wiped it down, that you're sitting on? All services are important. That is ministry. Real servants do every task with equal dedication because they know it all matters. It doesn't matter if you're doing something important that is well known or if you're doing something important that's not well known. It's all important in God's eyes.

III. If you want to learn to serve like Jesus, you have to learn to serve with a generous heart and be faithful. You make yourself available. (Show Matthew 20:28)



It means you don't give up. You keep on going. You don't quit. At the end of Jesus' ministry on Earth, Jesus said "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." (John 17:4). Jesus was faithful in fulfilling his service. He didn't give up. He didn't give in. He was persistent. He never give up by serving us in persevere to the point of death. Jesus said, "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45). Going to the cross for you and I that we may received the joy of salvation with Him.

John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1887) wrote about "The Blind Men and the Elephant." (wall relief in Northeast Thailand) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind\\_men\\_and\\_an\\_elephant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blind_men_and_an_elephant) (Show blind men and elephant)



It was six men of Indostan, to learning much inclined, who went to see the elephant (Though all of them were blind), that each by observation, might satisfy his mind. (Show wall)



The *first* approached the elephant, and, happening to fall, against his broad and sturdy side, at once began to bawl: "God bless me! but the elephant, is nothing but a **WALL**" (Show spear)



The *second* feeling of the tusk, cried: "Ho! what have we here, so very round and smooth and sharp? To me tis mighty clear, this wonder of an elephant, is very like a **SPEAR!**" (Show snake)



The *third* approached the animal, and, happening to take, the squirming trunk within his hands, thus boldly up and spoke: "I see," quoth he, "the elephant is very like a **SNAKE!**"

(Show tree)



The *fourth* reached out his eager hand, and felt about the knee: "What most this wondrous beast is like, is mighty plain," quoth he, "Tis clear enough the elephant is very like a **TREE!**"

(Show fan)



The *fifth*, who chanced to touch the ear, Said; "E'en the blindest man can tell what this resembles most; Deny the fact who can, This marvel of an elephant, is very like a **FAN!**"

(Show rope)



The *sixth*, no sooner had begun, about the beast to grope, than, seizing on the swinging tail, that fell within his scope, "I see," quoth he, "the elephant is very like a **ROPE!**"

(Show the blind men and the elephant)



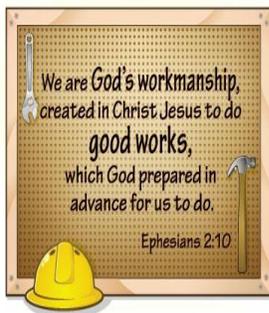
And so these men of Indostan, disputed loud and long, each in his own opinion, exceeding stiff and strong, Though each was partly in the right, and all were in the wrong!

The analogy of the blind men and the elephant is a metaphor in many disciplines, being pressed into service. Too many people think like the blind men in service of God's work of expanding His Kingdom. People will not see God's Kingdom with their own eyes but people will see your work as servant so that they may glorify our Father in heaven. (Show Our Redeemer Lutheran Church)



Have you ever wondered why you're here at Our Redeemer? You're here at Our Redeemer because God's brought you here to further His kingdom. He did not bring you here just to sit and soak and enjoy. He brought you here to serve. Your background, talent, skill, ability, contact, network, interest, hobby, or whatever. You can still serve God in many different way. Now you may retire from your job, but you're never retiring from the ministry of serving others. You're never retiring from service. Because God wants you to serve the rest of your life. Christ will enable you to serve Him and others because He is "with you to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20). "The harvest is plentiful but the worker are few." (Luke 10:2) Ask God, "Make Me A Servant."

Seng and Sam, as you prepare to do God's work, knowing that it is not what you done but it is what God has prepare for you to be done according to his purpose. (Show Ephesians 2:10 and Matthew 25:23)



This is what the Apostle Paul meant when he say, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10) Seng and Sam, boldly go and be of a good servant. When you are called into God's grace, love, and mercy, into His heavenly kingdom of eternal life, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant!..." (Matthew 25:23) Amen. Now may the peace of God with passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen

I will say a few words in Hmong to Seng, Sam and the Hmong members..... Asmees.