

**Scripture Reference: Matthew 26:26-28**

**Date: April 7, 2013**

**Title: "Giving it Away"**

**Focus: A life of service.**

**Intro:**

1. The Lord's Supper has touched the lives of people at many levels. But, at its core, it is a declaration of service.

**Body:**

## **Jesus - A Servant of God and Man**

From the moment of His appearance Jesus was clear; He came not to "*be served, but to serve.*" (Matt. 20:28)

Jesus' character exemplified this in all His interactions.

So, it comes as no surprise as the time of His death approaches He is found serving the disciples.

Matthew recounts Jesus serving His disciples the elements of the Passover Meal, the bread and wine.

John notes Jesus serving the disciples by washing their feet (John 13)

Both foreshadow Jesus' service of giving himself as an offering for sin and the means for a relationship with God.

## **Through the Centuries His Example has been Emulated by His Disciples**

**Paul** - *"Are they servants of Christ?-I speak as if insane-I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure."* (2 Cor. 11:23-27)

**William Carey** - A missionary to India. During his time there, he contracted malaria, his 5-year-old Peter died of dysentery. This was too much for his wife, Dorothy, whose mental health deteriorated rapidly. She suffered delusions, accusing Carey of adultery and threatened him with a knife. She eventually had to be confined to a room and physically restrained. She would die of a fever. He remarried, this wife too died as did his oldest son. It would be only after seven years of missionary labor Carey would baptize his first convert. He spent 41 years in India without a furlough. At the time of his death, there had only been some 700 converts in a nation of millions.

**David Livingstone** - Known as an explorer, David Livingstone was foremost a missionary with a heart for the people of Africa. Livingstone conceived the idea that, if a way were opened from the interior to the coast, Christianity, civilization and commerce would move freely to the African people. But the undertaking involved fearful hardships and much self-denial. It was about this time that he wrote, "I place no value on anything I have or possess except in relation to the kingdom of Christ." Taking his wife and children to Cape Town he saw them sail for England on April 23, 1852. After seven months of untold hardship we reached the west coast on November 11, 1853. During His journey he had thirty-one attacks of intermittent fever; towards its close these were accompanied by dysentery of the most painful type. Often he was destitute of food. After sixteen years of absence Livingstone made his first visit to England in 1856. During his time in Africa he preached to thousands and tens of thousands of natives. But his strength failed him in 1871. Feet sore from ulcers; teeth falling out through sickness; weary of body and sick of heart, he lay in his hut for eighty days. David Livingstone died in Africa May 1, 1873. He was found kneeling at his bedside, with his head in his hands upon the pillow. He had died in the act of prayer.

**Lottie Moon** - Born to an affluent family and highly educated (she would learn 7 languages), she made the decision to go serve the people of northern China. Lottie chose the mission field over marriage. Throughout her missionary career, Moon faced plague, famine, revolution, and war. The First Sino-Japanese War (1894), the Boxer Rebellion (1900) and the Chinese Nationalist uprising all profoundly affected her mission work. Famine and disease took their toll, as well.

Lottie Moon shared her personal finances and food with anyone in need around her, severely affecting both her physical and mental health. In 1912, she only weighed 50 pounds. Alarmed, fellow missionaries arranged for her to be sent back home to the United States with a missionary companion. However, Moon died at the age of 72, on December 24, 1912, in the harbor of Kobe, Japan.

### **Closing:**

#### **How's Your Service?**

Husbands, give yourselves to your wives and children, serving as the family's priest. (Eph. 5:25-29)

Wives, serve your husbands and children, being an example in holiness and devotion. (1 Peter 1:3-4)

Believers, serve others, thinking more of them than you do of yourself. (Phil. 2:3)

A follower of Jesus can serve the lost by showing them what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Heavens. (Matt. 18:21-35)

In serving, demonstrate a love for God that exceeds our love for ourselves. (Luke 14:26)