



Sunday, March 3, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to 1 Peter 4:7-11

It is a profound encouragement to know that God has gifted each of His people for service. If the greatest in the kingdom of God is the one who serves, then how great it is to know that any of us is capable of greatness! The challenge, of course, is that often we are either uncertain of what our gifts are, disappointed when we discover what they are, or we become envious of the gifts that other people have.

To remedy this, Peter encourages his audience to consider their gifts as a blessing from God that can be used for His glory. Our concept of glory is strange. We tend to think of glory in the biggest, grandest terms. It is glorious when someone achieves something great. But in the kingdom of God, He is glorified whenever His people find their groove in serving Him and His people in ways that are loving, humble, and self-controlled. These may not be the kind of glorious activities that inspire books or movies, but they are significant in the eyes of the only One who matters.

Context

1 Peter is a letter written to people who are persecuted and suffering. Ironically, while our tendency is to meet the needs of those who are suffering by making them more comfortable, Peter challenges his readers to deeper devotion and faithfulness in service. Likewise, a major section of Peter's letter focuses on being subject to authorities (even the ones that are doing the persecuting)—something totally contrary to conventional wisdom (2:13-3:22). The reason he can say this is that all things are ultimately subject to Christ and because the end is near when all things will be put in subjection under Him (3:22; 4:7).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

“Gifted to Serve”

Key Ideas

- 1) Because the end is near, we should be self-controlled and committed to prayer.
- 2) We ought to love one another, since love covers a multitude of sins.
- 3) We ought to serve one another humbly, not letting others know the cost of serving them.
- 4) Each person who is a Christian has been gifted by God.
- 5) We don't necessarily have the gifts we would have chosen, but we have the gift that God has chosen for us.
- 6) We shouldn't have “gift envy,” but should rejoice both in the gifts that God has given to us and the gifts He has given to those around us.
- 7) We ought to pray for discernment to know our gifts, to be tested to see whether they are actually our gifts, and to use whatever gifts we have for God's glory.

