

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Four Ways the Gospel Changes Our Serving (Part 2)

3. From Available to Intentional

One of the most common things we say when someone is struggling is, "Let me know if you need anything." It sounds kind and thoughtful, but almost nobody responds to it. If someone said, "I'd like to bring you and your family dinner tonight," I'd probably say, "Wow, that would be really helpful." But if they said, "Is there anything I can do for you?" and I answered, "Yes, would you make me dinner tonight?" that would feel rude. We all know this. Nobody has a baby and texts the church, "I would like lasagna on Wednesday." But meal calendars get set up because someone else says, "Let's bring them meals."

Paul says, "Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:4). Availability says, "I'm here if you need me." Intentionality says, "I see you, and here's what I'm doing about it." Instead of saying, "Let me know if you need anything," say, "Can I bring dinner?" "Can I watch your kids?" "Can I help you move?" "Can I sit with you?"

4. From Reciprocal to Gracious

Often, we think about serving in a reciprocal way. You helped me move, so I'll help you move. You made me a meal, so I'll make you a meal. We want the equations to balance—but often, they don't. Even if serving continues, bitterness grows.

However, Jesus calls us to move beyond reciprocity. He says, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" Then He says, "Love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return" (Luke 6:32, 35). Jesus calls us to serve graciously without keeping score—to serve those who don't deserve it. This frees us from watching the scales and measuring others' responses.

By Caleb Davis, from ForTheChurch

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WHAT'S ON?

MONDAY

7AM Community Breakfast

TUESDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

WEDNESDAY

9AM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

9AM Quilters/Craft

FRIDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 11th Hannah C

Aug 12th David E



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Accommodation Needed: Jared & Verena Bradley

Our mission partners Jared & Verena Bradley will be on the Sunshine Coast on home assignment and are looking for short-term accommodation. They need a place to stay from September 30–October 7, and again from November 30–January 12. If you can help, please let Sue Wust know.

Calling all Crafters and Sewers

Trish is looking for people to make A4 size fabric bags with drawstring (like library bags) for Homes of Hope International (HOHI). She will be taking them to Bangladesh and buying products there to fill the bags and give them to the children, widows and workers of HOHI homes and projects. The next team trip for Bangladesh is 3rd September this year.

SOS –Seniors Out Somewhere

Our next outing is to La Balsa Park in Buddina on Thursday 27th August. Meet at 10am at the park for a walk, fish, play lawn games or just sit and chat. BYO morning tea. Hamburger lunch at no cost. Sign up list in foyer.

Men's Breakfast – Date Claimer

Men, you're invited to a men's breakfast on Saturday September 19th at the church (8am–11am).

Speak to Richard Van Eck for more info.

Can You Pray?

Can you serve our church family through prayer? We need people who commit to pray for regular prayer points sent on Monday each week, plus people who can join a church WhatsApp group to receive urgent prayer points. You can also join a text message prayer team during the Alpha Course or come along in person to pray at 9am each Wednesday at the church (all welcome). Reply to this email or let Bill know.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for those in our extended church family who are unwell or recovering, including Arthur & Gloria, Philip J, Maria B, Beth P, John B, Dawn J, Veronica Y and others, plus all those with long term health conditions.
- Pray for the Alpha course which continues this Thursday. Pray that people would continue to attend and be open to the gospel.
- Pray for God's provision in the search process for a new Associate Pastor.
- Pray for Trish F and the HOHI team preparing to travel to Bangladesh.
- Pray for our relationships with non-believers – that our words and actions would be a clear and compelling witness to the good news of the gospel.
- Pray that God will prepare our hearts to hear his word this Sunday and pray for Bill as he prepares to preach on Mark 10:1–12.

NOTES

OFFERING-DIRECT TRANSFER DETAILS:
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Senior Pastor, Bill Forgeard

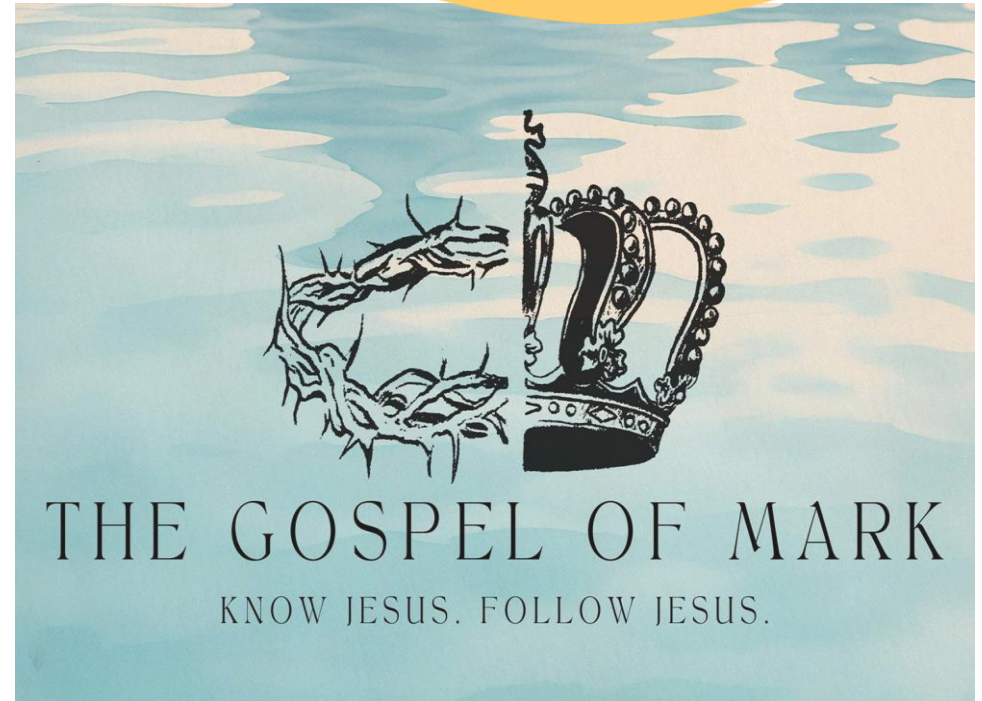
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"For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'. So, they are no longer two, but one flesh." (Mark 10:7-8)

9th

August

9AM *Pastor Bill*

Marriage and Divorce

Mark 10:1-12