GROWING DEEPER IN SERVICE
October 22nd 2017 1 Peter 4:7-11 Ben Skeat
Building A Deeper Life In A Shallow World, Part 7

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[7] The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. [8] Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. [9] Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. [11] If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. **1 Peter 4:7-11**

BIG IDEA: Faithful service reveals God to others, and He uses it to form us in His image

1) You have LESS TIME than you wish. (v.7)

- When our lives are full, distracted, disconnected from God, it is easy to be deceived about our urgent need to live for Him

˝So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God" **Romans 14:12**

2) SEE the need, MEET the need. (v.8-9)

- "Watch to see where God is working, and join him in his work" Henry Blackaby.
    - o God is: connecting, reconciling, convicting

- o Jesus commanded: care for the needy, forgive, love, show mercy
- o Anytime we see these things, we've received our invitation to join in

3) Aspire to be USEFUL. (v.10-11)

"…faithful dispensers of the magnificently varied grace of God" (v.10) JBP

- Steward: someone who takes care of something that belongs to someone else

- What has God given you to take care of on his behalf
    - o Spiritual gifts
    - o Talents & skills
    - o Time, availability

˝We are therefore Christ's ambassadors..." **2 Cor 5:20a**

Growing deeper in service:

- Start today

- Say "yes"

- Aim for usefulness, and take the next step