

**“Giving...Glory: Martha’s Service”**  
**John 12:1-8; 1 Peter 4:7-11**

**Introduction:**

- Today’s message is a primer for biblical service
- Very exhortative!!!

**SERVICE IN PERSPECTIVE (John 12:1-8)**

- A) A small thing in a bigger picture
- B) Jesus is always the main character

**SERVICE IN PURPOSE (1 Peter 4:7-11)**

- A) Context of 1 Peter: Suffering and persecution. Peter charges them to stand firm in sound doctrine and together as a biblical community. They were facing persecution from both the outside establishment and within their own families.
- B) Purpose in Time (v.7a)
  - a. Begg the question: What are you doing? Where are you going?
    - i. The temporal robs us of the eternal perspective
    - ii. Ask, “What does it profit a man?”
  - b. **2 Corinthians 5:16-17**, “**16** From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”
  - c. Looking always for His return
    - i. Perspective is not relief from suffering
    - ii. Perspective is being found pleasing (2 Peter 3:14)

- C) Purpose to control body & mind (v.7b)
  - a. Self-Control (fleshly appetites) – cf. vv.1-6
  - b. Sober-minded (think awake)
- D) Purpose to love the biblical community of the church (vv.8-11a)
  - a. Defining membership (**2 Cor.5:16-21; Heb.10:19-25**)
    - i. New Creations
      - 1. Former sinners and enemies
      - 2. Atoned for and reconciled to God
      - 3. Ambassadors (like-minded / common purpose)
    - ii. Worshippers (**Heb.10:19-25**) – t-shirt & letter (3 fold definition)
      - 1. Christ’s merit
      - 2. Equip one another
      - 3. Regularly meeting
      - 4. Eternal perspective (remind each other of His imminent return)
  - b. Love each other (v.8)
    - i. With great effort (**John 13:34-35**)
    - ii. Will “cover” sins (**Prov.10:12**)
      - 1. Contrast reproach / forgiveness
      - 2. Relational (not for self / for God)
  - c. Be hospitable to one another (v.9)
    - i. Constrains selfishness (“me” attitude)
    - ii. Hospitality is to be joy-filled (serve with gladness) – Colors the WAY we serve
  - d. Use your gift (v.10)
    - i. To serve
    - ii. As a steward (of God’s varied grace)
      - 1. Diversity of Gifts (**1 Cor.12:12-27**)
      - 2. Unity of Purpose (**Eph.4:11-16**)
    - iii. Categorical examples (speech & service)
      - 1. Gifts of speech (oracles)
      - 2. Gifts of service (God’s strength)
- E) Purpose is God (v.11b)
  - a. Intent
  - b. God magnified in the eyes of men
  - c. Through Jesus Christ

- d. Attribute to God His Worth
  - i. When you received your gift, He did not confer to you His glory
  - ii. **2 Cor.4:7**, *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”*

F) Purpose out of Time (v.11c)

#### **THE APPLICATION**

- A) Joining the local body at UBC...essential to rightly use gifts of the Holy Spirit
- B) Members sign up and serve
- C) To the unbeliever, as the redeemed of God (by his grace) we say, “Be reconciled to God!” This is our cry to the community.