

John 12:26 Serving Jesus

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

What does it mean to serve Jesus?

According to this text, we must serve Jesus. This is the only way we will be honoured by God, thus saved by God. And according to the text, the way we serve Jesus, is by following Him. But we can't follow him around literally from place to place like his disciples did, so we follow him by following his teachings, obeying His word.

Let's talk about some aspects of serving Jesus ...

serve only God - Mt 4:10 - ... Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, & him only shalt thou **serve**.

we have to put Jesus before money/everything - Matt 6:24 - No man can **serve** two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot **serve** God and mammon.

we serve God with fastings and prayers - Luke 2:37 - And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but **serve** God with fastings and prayers night and day.

the greatest Christian is one who serves the most - Luke 22:27 - But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth **serve**.

we should serve one another - Gal 5:13 - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love **serve** one another.

we must quit serving sin - Rom 6:6 - Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not **serve** sin.

Can we be saved without serving Jesus?

No, John 12:26 teaches only those who serve Jesus will be in heaven with Jesus, only those who serve Jesus will the Father honor.

A lot of preachers say all you have to do is believe in Jesus to be saved, but passages like these prove you also have to serve him.

You can believe that a king exists, but serving that king is another matter.

Both belief and obedience is required.

Mark 16:16 - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ...

A lot of people excuse their sin by saying “everybody sins, so it must be okay.”

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Many say “it doesn’t matter if you believe or do the wrong thing; all that matters is if you love Jesus.”

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

For example, some think they are okay with God even though they are in an unscriptural marriage because they think God will forgive them even if they don’t repent.

Matt 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Mark 6:17-18 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

A lot of preachers say Once Saved Always Saved, but John 12:26 shows that only servants of Jesus will be saved – if you quit serving Him, then you won’t be saved.

Only those who abide in Jesus' teaching have God, will be saved.

II John 9 - Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.