



## Give Your Life – “I am the Life”

After retiring from a 20-year career in the Marines in 1978 and having a second career for a few years, Ed Butchart got a really great idea. Ed began to refurbish wheelchairs in his garage and give them to people in need. At first, Ed and his wife, Annie, rebuilt the wheelchairs themselves and gave them away. This was the humble beginning of what is now called Friends of Disabled Adults and Children, a mission ministry of Mount Carmel Christian Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Since then, his ministry has grown from a tiny space in a garage to an impressive warehouse, packed with refurbished wheelchairs, hospital beds, medical equipment, and computers. The ministry has helped people ranging in age from 18 months to 104 years, and has provided over 19,000 wheelchairs. The retail value of all medical equipment that has been given away now totals over \$30 million.

Want to know what got him started? Ed made friends with a man who had cerebral palsy. He found himself changing a light bulb that the man couldn't reach. The simple act gave him a feeling of satisfaction that he'd never before experienced.

Adapted from the FODAC website and Christianity Today

Today we will focus how Jesus' statement that He is “the life” speaks directly to the imperative of Give Your Life. Let's consider Mark 10:42-45 – “Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them [43] Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, [44] and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. [45] For even the Son Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.””

We are also told in Philippians 2: 5-8 – “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: [6] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!”

## Scripture

Read John 13:1-17

## Discovery Questions

1. What surprising action did Jesus perform in this passage? Why was it so unusual?
2. This event took place during a very famous meal. There are two names for this event – a Jewish feast name and the Christian name for remembrance of the meal – what are they?
3. Why did Peter respond with the words that he did in verse 9? Why did he have such a different reaction in verse 8?
4. Jesus asked His disciples a question in verse 12. Do you think they understood what Jesus did?
5. In verse 15, Jesus said He was setting an example. Did it mean that we should do exactly what He did or that we should find service opportunities in our every day lives? Why?

## Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

**Prayer:** Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- Dear God, I need You to soften my heart and give me a sense of gratitude for all You have done for me. Let this gratitude blossom into a desire to serve You and those around me, as You would have me do.
- Lord, I have a desire to serve Your church but I am not sure where to begin. Give me the courage to let some people know that I would like to serve but don't know how or where.
- Lord, I know that You have a place for me in Your service. Help me to get past that first hurdle of being frightened of doing something I have never done before. I can do all things through You.
- Dear Heavenly Father, let me never think that a task that You give me is beneath my dignity. Let me always remember that Jesus washed the dirty feet of His Apostles.

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