

Your Serve  
By Rick Ezell

“I exhort the elders among you: shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing out of compulsion but freely, according to God's [will]; not for the money but eagerly; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:1-3 HCSB).

President Barak Obama has always been a strong supporter of empowering ordinary people to do extraordinary things by improving their local communities through service. He signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, a hallmark piece of legislation that will increase the size of AmeriCorps from 75,000 volunteers to 250,000 by 2017.  
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/Service/>).

Perhaps he learned a lesson from John Kennedy. Remember Kennedy's famous inaugural address line? “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” Service is at the heart of greatness. Too many people spend an entire lifetime focusing only on themselves, thinking that significance comes from success. To make a difference the focus first must be turned outward instead of inward, giving instead of getting, serving rather than being served.

Peter addressed the church leaders in his letter, a group of people that had given themselves to others. He instructed them to serve. They did enthusiastically and not for monetary gain, providing a model for all to follow.

We don't make a lasting impact by what we make. That's secondary. We make a lasting impact by what we give. We tend to equate having money with having influence. Instead of focusing on how much you can get, focus on how much you can give. Instead of counting the number of people who serve you, count how many you are serving. If you want to make a difference in your family, assist them; in your church, find a place to volunteer; in your community, give; in your world, help. Ask not what your wife, your children, your your neighbor, or your boss can do for you; ask what you can do for them.

If you want to leave a mark on this world then serve others.

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