

Jesus told us to Serve God

Biblical

Foundation

Bible passage : Matthew 4.8-10

Our school has added a new value called service, meaning to serve. But service can be a confusing idea.

Later in the term we will think about different ways people serve others and how they serve our community. But the words are also used for things like a car being taken to a garage for a “service”. There are Church services and tennis players who serve. In the past, and still today there were people who were servants, and we still have civil servants, who work for the government to deliver public services.

In our school we want to be inspired by Christ. So over the first few school worship times we will look at what Jesus taught and did, and so at what the Bible says.

In Matthew chapter 4 we read how just before Jesus began to teach and do miracles He spent forty days preparing and fasting, eating no food. We read how Jesus was tempted by the devil three times, and each time Jesus spoke about what was written in “The Scriptures”, what we call the Old Testament of the Bible.

The third temptation was for Jesus to worship the devil, not God. But Jesus instead spoke about what was written in the first two of the Ten Commandments, given by God 1,500 years earlier. Jesus said “You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve”.

In the commandment God was telling people not to worship idols and statues, not to bow down and serve them. At that time, and still today,



Moses (played by Sir Ben Kingsley) carrying the 10 Commandments from the 1996 film Moses.

“You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve”
Mark 4.10

many people did worship in that way. Though, not amongst the Jews.

In other places people would have a statue or idol in their own home or on a street corner or in a special place. They would serve the statue bringing gifts including food.

We will see how the command of God means much more than that. But even so when the message about Jesus was told to people who did worship in that way, when they heard about Jesus, they came to believe and trust in Him, that changed their lives. We read in the Bible how they “*turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*” (1 Thessalonians 1:19)

So the first thing we learn from the Bible, and from Jesus is that service begins with serving God. It is part of the the first two Commandments. It was, and still is, very, very, important.



Jesus taught us from the Bible that first and most importantly we should serve God.