

Essential #2

Bayou Chazown - Part 3

March 19, 2023

thebayouchurch.org/easter

*"Where there is no **vision/chazown**, the people perish."* Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

We each have an individual Chazown, but we are all called to one collective Bayou Church Chazown as well.

The Bayou Church's Forever Chazown: Transforming lives, in Acadiana, through Christ-centered relationships.

The Bayou Church's Today Chazown: Decades: Building on the Past, to Shape the Future

Essential #1 - Generosity!

When we give:

- Ministry is fueled
- Needs are met
- God is glorified

March 26th - 1-Year Decades Anniversary

*⁴Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life **worthy** of your calling, for you have been called by God. ²Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, **making allowance for each other's faults** because of your love. ³**Make every effort** to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴For there is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you have been called to **one glorious hope for the future**.*

*⁵There is **one Lord**, **one faith**, **one baptism**, ⁶**one God** and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. ⁷However, **He has given** each one of us a **special gift** through the **generosity** of Christ. ...*

*¹¹Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹²Their responsibility is to **equip** God's people to do His work and **build up the church**, the **body of Christ**. ¹³This will continue until we all come to such **unity** in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be **mature** in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.*

*¹⁴Then we will no longer be **immature** like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵Instead, we will speak the **truth in love**, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the **head** of His body, the church. ¹⁶He makes the whole body fit together **perfectly**. As each part does its own **special work**, it helps the other parts **grow**, so that the whole body is **healthy and growing** and full of **love**." Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16 (NLT)*

Essential #2 is Serving - Using my time, gifts and abilities to do God's work and build up His church, the body of Christ.

Disclaimer:

- If you're a guest, we're not asking you to serve.
- You don't have to serve at The Bayou Church, but if you're a disciple of Jesus you better be serving wherever your home church is.

God has created and called His people to do His work!

Which one are you? Member or Owner?

Serving is a powerful **demonstration** of our faith.

*"For even the Son of Man came **not to be served but to serve others** and to give His life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 (NLT)*

Would you serve with us?

- thebayouchurch.org/serve

Common thoughts that keep us from serving:

- *I have a past.*
- *I'm too old/young.*
- *I don't have time.*
- *I don't know anyone else.*
- *I don't know what my gifts are.*
- *I don't know where I could serve.*

thebayouchurch.org/FirstSteps

- **First Steps is the best way to start serving!**
- *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)*

Two absolute essentials for living out our Today Chazown and our Forever Chazown:

- **Giving**
- **Serving**

Decades is happening because so many of you are **already** serving!

Are you willing to let God use you to help other people Know God, Find Community, and Make a Difference?

What happens when you serve:

- **God gets the glory.**
- **Needs are met.**
- **You get the joy!**

“³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’” Matthew 25: 34-40 (NLT)

Would you serve with us? Would you live out your individual Chazown as we live out our Bayou Church Chazown together?