



DEVOTION: June 30, 2019

On Vacation Or On Mission?
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Matthew 20:26-28

In the summer of 2018, my wife and I took our first cruise. It was a blessed five days of being pampered and eating way more than we should. Having people to wait on you every minute of the day is something that we could get used to. After a while, we noticed some people complaining that the service was not quite fast enough. It does not take long to grow accustomed to being served.

We also had the opportunity to speak to one of the ships officers about what life is like for the crew. It is not uncommon for a crew member — especially a cook or a member of the wait staff — to work 10-14 hours per day, seven days a week, for eight months straight. The crew works very hard to accomplish their mission of serving others.

All of that got me to thinking about the church. If the church was a cruise ship, would you see yourself as a passenger soaking up the service of others, or a member of the crew, serving others? Jesus said that he came “not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” The next time you are tempted to complain that your church is no longer meeting your needs, ask yourself, what am I doing to meet the needs of others? Are you on vacation, or on mission?



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