Called to Serve
John 15:13

In chapters 14 through 17, John writes what Jesus told His disciples.
It was the night before Jesus would be nailed to the cross. John is letting his readers know that Jesus' love for all of us, was so great that He willingly laid down His life for us. Think about it, Jesus is God, He has always been, and He always will be. Yet two thousand years ago, He came down from heaven for a great cause: to serve us!

Jesus did for us what we could never do on our own.
He provided the only possible way for us to be right with God. He completely gave Himself; not a little bit, He gave everything, and there is nothing we can do for Him in return. We can never make up the cost Jesus paid for us, and He doesn't ask us to. He came to serve, and He helped us when we had nowhere else to go. That's the example of true service Jesus gives us to imitate, as we follow Him.

The Bible tells us to emulate Jesus in everything we do.
Today there are so many images of what Jesus looks like Jesus, but Easter is the only time people focus on the greatest picture we have of Him; Jesus willfully giving Himself for us on the cross. And that's what He calls us to do; to be willing to give ourselves for the benefit of others. Jesus knows that this is the best way for His followers to serving one another.
John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Jesus Never Intended His Disciples To Be A Bunch Of Spiritually In Tune People, Isolated From Reality.

Spiritually in tune, maybe, but never isolated.
When Jesus called the 12, He didn't just sit on a mountain-top with them for three years. He didn't retreat to some place where they were they would be in spiritual ecstasy *(that could be Heaven)*. He called them to make a difference in people's lives. When He called us, it was for the same reason He called those before us. There is only one way we can meet this calling; by serving each other.

Yet, many Disciples today are not sure how to serve one another.
It simply begins with being grounded in the Word, which leads to serving by teaching and preaching. Most believers probably tune out when they hear this; because they don't want to be a teacher, let alone a preacher. But that's just what some become, even though most won't. However, when you are grounded in the Word, you are ready to teach.

That doesn't necessarily mean you're standing up in front of people.
You have a family who you can talk to about Jesus. You work with people who need to hear what God is saying in His Word, you go to school with people who need to know who Jesus is and how He loves everyone, or you may have friends you meet with each week. These can all be teaching moments. And as far as preaching is concerned, the Greek word means "proclaim." So yes, being grounded in the Word leads to serving by teaching and preaching.

Spending Time With God In Prayer, Leads To Serving Through Worship And Intercession.

Many of us may not be able to carry a tune, but we can still worship.
When people see others worshiping, it should lift their spirits and open their hearts to who Jesus is. So, we can serve each other as we worship our Lord. Then, *(as we already know)*, we can intercede on behalf of each other in prayer. Yet, many Christians don't like to pray, they feel awkward, especially in front of others. Maybe, they don't realize that praying is one of the greatest things we'll ever do for each other.

Then spending time in fellowship with one another leads to serving by supporting and nurturing.
We need to be there to support each other. The truth is I need you, you need me, and others need us. There may not be a label or a fancy title for it, but is there anything more important for us to do for each other than to be there and stand with and for each other in prayer?

Taking Time To Witness Is Also Serving, As You Bring People To Jesus.

It's the most important thing you can ever do for someone.
After all, it's the one thing you can do for them, that will last forever. We may never get to buy another new car or be able to afford another new pair of jeans or shoes in our lives. We may never have another dollar to our name, but we can always tell people about the greatest gift that ever was! We can tell them about Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. How He came and died for everyone because He loves them. We can always find something about Jesus, to share with them, regardless of where they stand with Him now.

Conclusion

So, whatever you do, remember this: *Disciples are to serve the people they come in contact with*.
We need to look at these encounters as *Divine Appointments*. So, each day we should consider who we may serve; today as well as tomorrow, whether at work, at home, or even at church.

Let me end this series on discipleship with the Apostle Paul's charge to the Jews in Rome.
Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.