

THE MEANING OF SERVICE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649645121

The Meaning of Service by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

**THE MEANING
OF SERVICE**

The Meaning of Service

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

AUTHOR OF "THE MANHOOD OF THE MASTER," "THE MEANING
OF PRAYER," "THE MEANING OF FAITH," ETC.



THE ABINGDON PRESS

NEW YORK

CINCINNATI

NEW YORK
1920

BV4501
F6

COPYRIGHT, 1920, BY
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

Handwritten signature

Printed in the United States of America

The Bible Text used in this volume is taken from the American Standard Edition of the Revised Bible, copyright, 1901, by Thomas Nelson & Sons, and is used by permission.

one

To
FRANK SHELDON FOSDICK
MY FATHER

WHO FOR NEARLY HALF A CENTURY, AS AN
EDUCATOR OF YOUTH, HAS ILLUSTRATED
IN HIS LIFE THE MEANING OF SERVICE.

615974



10

11

12



13

14

15



PREFACE

This little book completes a trilogy which it has long been my hope to write. "The Meaning of Prayer" is a study in the Christian's inward experience of fellowship with God; "The Meaning of Faith" is a study in the reasonable ideas on which the Christian life is based; and now "The Meaning of Service" is a study in the practical overflow of the Christian life in useful ministry.

This last book has been written at a time when its theme is most congenial with the crucial need of the world and the dominant mood of thoughtful folk. The overturn of human society in the Great War has inevitably brought to the top those elements of Christian life and thought which center about service. The task to be accomplished on earth is so immense, the cheap optimisms which once contented us are so impossible, the enemies against whom the Christian program must win its way are so formidable, and the need of unselfishness, public-mindedness, and sacrificial love is so urgent, that anyone who thinks at all about humanity's condition must think about service, its meaning, motives, and aims. I have not tried to keep these immediate and pressing conditions of our time from showing themselves in this book. One can write more timelessly about prayer and faith than he can about service. Yet I trust that I have not altogether lost the accent of those universal Christian truths and principles which make service, in any age, the indispensable expression of discipleship to the Master.

To many books and many friends, beyond the possibility of individual acknowledgment, I am indebted for the inspiration of these studies. In particular I am once more under heavy obligation to my friend and colleague, Professor George Albert Coe, Ph. D., for his careful reading of the manuscript, and to my publishers for their unfailing kindness and painstaking care in preparing it for the press.

November 1, 1920.

H. E. F.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special acknowledgment is gladly made to the following: to E. P. Dutton & Company for permission to use prayers from "A Chain of Prayer Across the Ages"; to the Rev. Samuel McComb and the publishers for permission to quote from "Prayers for Today," Copyright, 1918, Harper & Brothers; to the Pilgrim Press for permission to make selections from "Prayers of the Social Awakening" by Walter Rauschenbusch and "The Original Plymouth Pulpit" by Henry Ward Beecher; to Little, Brown & Company for permission to quote one prayer from "Prayers, Ancient and Modern" by Mary W. Tileston; to George H. Doran Company for permission to use one prayer from "Pulpit Prayers" by Alexander Maclaren; to Jarrolds (London) Ltd. for permission to make quotations from "The Communion of Prayer" by William Boyd Carpenter, Bishop of Ripon; and to Longmans, Green & Company for permission to quote from "Prayers for the City of God," by Gilbert Clive Binyon.

None of the above material should be reprinted without securing permission.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
PREFACE	vii
I. SERVICE AND CHRISTIANITY.....	1
II. THE PERIL OF USELESSNESS.....	19
III. THE STRONG AND THE WEAK.....	36
IV. THE ABUNDANT LIFE	55
V. SELF-DENIAL.....	72
VI. JUSTICE.....	91
VII. SMALL ENEMIES OF USEFULNESS.....	108
VIII. COOPERATION.....	126
IX. NEW FORMS OF SERVICE.....	145
X. THE GREAT OBSTACLE.....	164
XI. THE MOTIVE OF GRATITUDE.....	186
XII. VICTORIOUS PERSONALITY.....	204
SCRIPTURE PASSAGES USED IN THE DAILY READ- INGS.....	222
SOURCES OF PRAYERS USED IN THE DAILY READ- INGS.....	223

The best Prayer
 Verse?)
 Review)
 1-15
 15-25
 25-35
 35-45
 45-55
 55-65
 65-75
 75-85
 85-95
 95-105
 105-115
 115-125
 125-135
 135-145
 145-155
 155-165
 165-175
 175-185
 185-195
 195-205
 205-215
 215-225
 225-235
 235-245
 245-255
 255-265
 265-275
 275-285
 285-295
 295-305
 305-315
 315-325
 325-335
 335-345
 345-355
 355-365
 365-375
 375-385
 385-395
 395-405
 405-415
 415-425
 425-435
 435-445
 445-455
 455-465
 465-475
 475-485
 485-495
 495-505
 505-515
 515-525
 525-535
 535-545
 545-555
 555-565
 565-575
 575-585
 585-595
 595-605
 605-615
 615-625
 625-635
 635-645
 645-655
 655-665
 665-675
 675-685
 685-695
 695-705
 705-715
 715-725
 725-735
 735-745
 745-755
 755-765
 765-775
 775-785
 785-795
 795-805
 805-815
 815-825
 825-835
 835-845
 845-855
 855-865
 865-875
 875-885
 885-895
 895-905
 905-915
 915-925
 925-935
 935-945
 945-955
 955-965
 965-975
 975-985
 985-995
 995-1005