

## Playing the Servant

Tim Van Arsdale



"Tim be playin'," the boy mumbles.

"What do you mean?" the volunteer asks.

"Tim won't let me have another sandwich."

"I'd like to give you a second sandwich but our supplies are limited. We serve nearly sixty people a day, and we need to make our bread last so that everyone who comes to Cups can at least get one sandwich to eat."

I say, "We go through at least three loaves of bread a day."

"Tim, you be playin'," the boy says, again.

I bark, "If by *playin'* you mean, Tim serves me free food everyday and provides me with a safe place to hang out after school, then yeah...call me a playa'."

Playing the servant is not always easy and fun:

- facing an ungrateful spirit
- balancing limited resources
- relationship roadblocks
- unexpected health issues
- surrounding oneself with brokenness & poverty; the cries of the hurting & hopeless
- differences in beliefs and lifestyle choices
- trying to do things on our own while forgetting to abide in Jesus are just a few of the many reasons why playing the servant can be difficult.

I guess we shouldn't be surprised. Truthfully, we're deceived if we think serving should be a walk in the park or always feel good or be exciting.

Jesus' words to us (servants) in Matthew 25 are not easy: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger into your home, visit those in prison. These actions are not "easy, breezy, beautiful, cover girl" moments. They require hardship, sacrifice, faith and love. It's not easy to believe. It's not easy to sacrifice. It's not easy to love our enemies or even to love one another for that matter.

In spite of these challenges, serving in His Name is replete with pleasure and wisdom. Serving is one of the best ways of showing the World our faith in Christ. Serving births hope, prayer, insight into society, humility, an understanding of our own weakness and need, and joy in our hearts knowing that as we serve at Cups, we do so as unto the Lord (Matthew 25:40; Ephesians 6:7), as if Jesus Himself is sitting at the bar asking for a cup of soup.

Jesus is the ultimate servant. Jesus demonstrated His love for me in that while I was a sinner, He died for me (Romans 5:8). So, having an opportunity to serve Him daily, is one way I can show honor to the One who has honored me.

There are so many opportunities at Cups Cafe where **you**

can play the role of a servant. You can donate supplies. Visit the Blog page at [www.cupscafe.org](http://www.cupscafe.org) for an updated Needs List. You can follow us on Twitter or Facebook or sign up on our website to receive our e-newsletter. You can pray for us, volunteer your time, or support Cups Cafe with a monthly gift.

It's not often, these days, that I ask for direct financial support through snail mail or e-mail, but as the ministry of Cups Cafe grows, our need for dollars also increases. We serve nearly 60 guests a day and fly through bread and napkins and...well, you can imagine.

Please consider sending us a one-time contribution or maybe becoming a \$25 or \$50 monthly donor. Any dollar amount would be an answer to our prayers and empower us to continue serving Hope - one cup at a time. The Apostle Peter writes, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

We wish to thank all those who currently serve Cups through donations of time, treasure, or talent. We appreciate you and are grateful to God for your prayers and support!

Playing the servant is a blessing. My hope is that you find a way to serve someone this Spring using the gifts He has provided.



## Ride Against Hunger

Saturday June 27, 2015

9am-4pm

Mark your calendar! Our 2nd Annual motorcycle charity ride is the last Saturday in June. This is a HUGE event for Cups Cafe. It's our primary fundraiser for the year and canned food drive.

We need:

- Volunteers
- Sponsors
- Donated Chinese Raffle Baskets
- Donated Silent Auction Items
- Motorcycle Riders
- People to buy Ride Against Hunger t-shirts
- Help selling raffle tickets to Win A Harley Davidson



You have a registration form with more details. Please take a look and contact us if you're able to serve Cups in one of the ways above. Not a rider? No problem.

Help us spread the word by passing along the included registration form to any motorcycle riders or clubs in your circle of friends. Tell them to visit the **Ride Against Hunger** page on our website for details. You can purchase tickets to win the Harley Davidson we're raffling off, and see the bike, by stopping in at the River Styx Buehler's on Saturday June 20th from 10am-4pm.



Follow Cups Cafe on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/cupscafe](http://www.facebook.com/cupscafe)

### HOURS

MON - FRI 10AM to 4PM  
SAT 11AM to 2PM

