

Servanthood Lesson

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Servanthood is NOT just a leadership criterion

It is PRE-REQUISITE to being called a Christian!

IF YOU'RE NOT SERVING OTHERS... YOU'RE NOT SERVING JESUS!!

Primary requisite understandings to walking out a life of true servanthood

1. AFFIRM AVAILABILITY (easy to do when the job is glamorous)

- **ISAIAH...Isaiah 6:8 KJV** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? **Then said I, Here am I; send me.** Got to walk around naked and barefoot for 3 years
- **PAUL... Acts 9:5-6 KJV** And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. **6** And **he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?** And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. You can read his list of glamour in **2 Cor. 11 & 12**
- **MARY...Luke 1:38 KJV** And Mary said, **Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.** And the angel departed from her. She was considered by many to be a fornicator!!

2. ASSESS ABILITY

- Many tools available to help you do that...they can profile you down to a "T"...(if you think you're gifted in music, at least one person has to agree with you)

3. ACCEPT YOUR ASSIGNMENT

- **Isaiah 6:8-9 KJV** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? **Then said I, Here am I; send me. 9** And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.
- **Acts 9:10-17 KJV** And there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. **11** And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, **12** And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. **13** Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: **14** And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. **15** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: **16** For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. **17** And Ananias went his way, and entered into

the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

- REMEMBER WE ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT BEING SERVANTS...
- YOU DON'T GET THE LABEL OF "SERVANT", WHEN YOU DON'T DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD TO DO,
- OR GO WHERE YOU'RE TOLD TO GO...
- OR GRIPE AND COMPLAIN WHEN YOU GET THERE AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DOING IT!!
- I read this quote recently... **"REAL SERVANTS** are faithful to their ministry. Servants finish their tasks, fulfill their responsibilities, keep their promises, and complete their commitments. They don't leave a job half undone, and they don't quit when they get discouraged. They are trustworthy and dependable."
- Servants focus on others, not themselves. This is true humility: **NOT** thinking less of ourselves **but thinking of ourselves less**. They are self-forgetful. Paul said, "Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand." This is what it means to "lose your life" - forgetting yourself in service to others. ~Bishop D. Abernathy

4. ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Abel - Hebrews 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. **A MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE**
- **Versus Adam** (the woman that You gave to me...she's to blame)
- **Or Cain** (am I my brother's keeper?)
- It never ceases to amaze me how quickly we lose our accountability when we "get out on our own"
- That's the reason we have so many shipwrecks running up and down the highways!!
- Pedagogues (grk) boy tutors, won't submit to anyone...trickling blood from one place to another crying and mourning about how bad they've been treated!! They need a father in Christ!!!

5. AIM FOR GOD'S APPROVAL

- **Philippians 3:7-15 KJV** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. **8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, **9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **10** That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his

sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; **11** If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. **12** Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. **13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **14** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

▪ **Things Paul had to forget...**

- **His reputation and achievements...Phil. 3:4-6**
- **His past sins and mistakes...Acts 7:58-60**
- **His wounds received at the hands of others...2 Timothy 2:16-18** Hymanaeus & Philetus, **4:14-18** Alexander the coppersmith, and all men forsook him

6. ADOPT THE ATTITUDE OF THE LORD

- **Philippians 2:5-8 KJV** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- IF WE COULD EVER GET TO THINKING LIKE HIM...WE'D SURELY ACT MORE LIKE HIM!!
- IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR FOCUS...**Heb. 12:1-2, Genesis 15:13-14**
- **Romans 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.