

Christian Basics: Christian Service

Lesson 10

Your Availability To The Lord

- Servanthoods and servant leadership are fundamental building blocks in the kingdom of God.
 - The greatest example is Jesus Christ who came not to be served, but to serve. ([Mark 10:45](#))
- Does The Lord know you are available to serve?
 - Isaiah ([Isaiah 6:8](#))
 - Paul ([Acts 9:6](#))
 - Mary ([Luke 1:38](#))
 - Samuel ([1 Samuel 3:10](#))
- Availability is the first step in qualifying as a servant.
- Speak Lord. I am ready to do whatever You tell me to do!
 - [Matthew 18:4](#) Receiving as a child.
 - [Matthew 25:34-40](#) Parable of the righteous
- The down side of serving is that we run the risk of being hurt or unappreciated in the process.
 - We encounter ungratefulness or rudeness or being ignored by those we attempt to serve.
 - This comes with the territory of serving and should not discourage us from our efforts.

Assess Your Ability Before The Lord

- Just because we're available doesn't necessarily mean we're able.
 - So we need to assess our ability before the Lord ([1 Peter 4:10](#))
 - The talents in the parable in [Matthew 24](#) are given to us according to our ability and according to the grace that is given to us.
- Therefore our service to the Lord, at least in terms of longer-term ministry, needs to be in accordance with the gift(s) we've have been given.
 - For example, we all can give a drink of water or hold a door open for a person. This kind of service is less gift-based than it is kindness (a manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit).
 - When it comes to seeking areas of service, we ought to examine how God has gifted us as believers – a combination of our spiritual gifts and natural talents – and expect God to use us most in areas consistent with those.

Accept Your Assignment From The Lord

- The hardest thing about being a servant is being willing to accept the Master's assignments.
 - Servants are people under authority.
 - Obedience is the primary evidence that one understands the nature of authority.
 - Because it is God who has given us “Gifts” and given us everything we have, it is His authority we are under.
- God establishes not only His own authority over all but lesser levels of authority as well, which we are responsible to obey.
 - Serving others is serving God
 - Serving legitimate authorities is to serve and obey God.
 - [Luke 1:38; 6:46; Matthew 28:18-20; John 2:5](#)

Accountability and Approval

- Acknowledge Your Accountability To The Lord
 - The parable of the talents ([Matthew 25](#); [Luke 19](#)) is a perfect example of accountability
 - Jesus Christ left this earth for heaven and left us in charge of doing business until He returns.
 - One day He will return and examine our faithfulness in carrying out that which He asked us to do in His absence.
 - How well did we serve Him?
 - How well did we serve others?
 - The essence of the parable is that we will be held accountable for obedience to Him.
- Aim For The Approval Of The Lord
 - Sometimes we get confused about whose approval we seek. We all like the ‘pat’ on the back..... Good boy, Good boy (or Good girl, Good girl)
 - If we are serving in order to get that approval from men or others around us, then our own motivation is off-base ([Matthew 25:23](#))
 - Our work is not in vain ([1 Corinthians 15:58](#))
 - God doesn’t forget our works ([Hebrews 6:10](#))
 - God will honor us for our works ([John 12:26](#))
 - We need to perform our work enthusiastically ([Colossians 3:23-24](#)); We should perform everything enthusiastically as unto the Lord.
 - After each day, we should know that we’ve been available with our abilities and have fulfilled our assignments with no fear of accountability, looking forward to hearing the Savior’s response one day. “Well done thou faithful servant”
 - This doesn’t mean we’ve served perfectly, but it does mean we’ve been serving the King enthusiastically to our best.

Adopt The Attitude Of The Servant

- Our attitude should be that of a bondservant ([Philippians 2:5](#))
- Besides submitting to the cross at Calvary, Jesus' greatest example of servanthood.
 - As the leader of the Disciples, Jesus took upon the role of a servant.
 - The disciples got into an argument over who among them was greatest ([Luke 22:24](#))
 - Jesus took a towel and a basin of water and proceeded to wash the disciples' feet fulfilling the role of a household servant ([John 13:3-5](#))
 - This was the most menial of tasks and degrading in the eyes of most, but Jesus was saying we are to enthusiastically serve one another, irrespectively. ([John 13:14-15](#))
 - Culturally speaking we don't walk around with dirty feet that need washing. But there are plenty of ways for us to serve one another by doing things we might otherwise think are beneath us. If we have the attitude of our Lord, we will.