

Serving As To The Lord

(Colossians 3:22-23)

- Introduction:
1. Being a servant requires sacrifice; sacrifice requires self-denial; and self-denial requires a rationale.
 2. Therefore, if one is to become a servant, he needs a worthwhile or compelling motive.
 3. Ills. Louis Cochran, "The Fool of God,"
 4. While Campbell sacrificed "love" to serve the Lord, countless others have sacrificed a myriad of things, even life itself, to serve the Lord.
 5. While these sacrifices may differ from person to person, the common thread that connects all these acts of self-denial is the recognition of a compelling cause or a motive that is worthwhile.

I. A Rationale For Service

- A. Service Is Christ-like (Matthew 20:28; John 13:1-17).
 1. Service is Christ-like. Being a servant is difficult, selfless, humbling, and inconvenient, but it is also Christ-like.
 2. Ills. Of Louie Nunn's wife at WalMart.
 3. Ills. Of ticket taker on a train.
 4. (Romans 8:29).
- B. Service Is Difficult (Matthew 20:20-23; Mark 8:34).
 1. Service is Difficult. Because service requires sacrifice, it does not come naturally. Rather it is a learned behavior or way of life.
 2. Living an unselfish life is an art, and therefore takes perfecting.
 3. Ills. Of children who give me drawings.
- C. Service Is Needed (1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Ephesians 1:22-23).
 1. (Ephesians 1:22-23).
 2. Jesus needs you!
- D. Service Is Motivated (Ephesians 5-7; Luke 17:7-10).
 1. How can one refuse service when he realizes what Jesus did for him?
 2. Ills. Of Franciszek Gajowniczek & Maximilian Kolbe.
 3. Look beyond the person you are serving and see Jesus (Ephesians 6:5-7).

II. If We Will Serve "As To The Lord," We Will Find The Following To Be True

- A. One Can Serve God With Joy.
 1. (Acts 20:7).
- B. One Can Serve God With Zeal.
 1. (Titus 2:14).
 2. The child of God should not have to be drug into good work, nor should he wait for the opportunity to serve to fall in his lap. Rather, he should pursue opportunities to serve.
 3. (Romans 14:19).

4. Consider how much service could be offered up in the name of Jesus if Christian families would get together in each other's homes, and instead of spending the evening playing games, they spend the evening brainstorming about ways to serve the Master.
 5. Consider how much service could be done if Christians would explore ways to use their secular professions, skills, and training to serve the Lord.
 6. Consider how much service could be rendered if Christians would not simply be content with the way things have always been done in the past, and try new ways to serve the Lord.
- C. One Can Serve God in Small Ways.
1. Many Christians would be willing to serve God if they were called upon to serve God in a large way.
 2. (Mark 9:41).
 3. (Hebrews 6:10).
 4. Recognition of the fact that God accepts "small" acts of service puts meaningful service within everyone's reach.
- D. One Can Serve God for Nothing.
1. When one realizes that his service is to the Lord, then his service is not contingent upon being shown proper respect or being given sufficient thanks.
 2. If one's service is to the Lord, circumstances will not matter.
 3. He will serve when he is overlooked, criticized, gossiped about, lied about, and threatened.
- Conclusion:
1. For Christ, service wasn't a 'spiritual ladder' to success, in the sense that, if we're willing to serve a while, we'll get power later!
 2. It wasn't a performance so that he could be rewarded. It was his character.
 3. When he served he was doing what comes naturally."
 4. However, we're a different story. Service doesn't come to us so naturally. However the Lord desperately needs us to be servants. He needs us to be his point of contact with the world today.
 5. Remember this final thought: You will never be more like the Lord than when you pick up a pitcher and a towel and serve your fellow man as if that service was unto the Lord, himself.