**TYPES OF SERVANTS**

Sunday School Lesson 10

*Servants of Christ*

Matthew 24-25

10/8/2023

**Series Recap:** As we come to our final lesson in our series on being servants of Christ, let’s quickly review the lessons that we have learned along the way. In our first two lessons, we considered how important it is to have the right kind of attitude as a servant of the Lord. Our attitude must be one of great humility and joyfulness. It is a great privilege to serve the Lord, and that thought ought to prompt us to have great gladness in what we get to do each day. He paid a debt that we couldn’t pay, and our service to Him will never come close to repaying what He has done for us. Additionally, our attitude must be that pleasing the Master is more important than anything else. We are commanded not to be menpleasers. In our third and fourth lesson, we looked at some habits that a servant of Christ ought to have. We must be in the habit of meditating on the Master’s Word and doing the Master’s will. We ought to respond to the Master’s call promptly and obediently. In our fifth lesson, we looked at our example of service in Christ Jesus and considered what the form of a servant ought to look like. A servant of Christ will put on the mind of Christ, hold himself accountable, have little regard for his own reputation, resist becoming distracted by trivial things, and constantly seek to remain clean for service. In our sixth and seventh lessons, we identified some specific areas of service for the servants of Christ. The six primary areas of service are preaching/teaching, praising, witnessing, praying, edifying, and giving. In our eighth lesson, we were reminded that there are some focal points of service. We must not lose sight of the purity, preference, purpose, plainness, and profit of service. In last week’s lesson, we were warned about the distractions of money, curiosity, entertainment, relationships, and discouragements. For our final lesson, we will consider some types of servants that are mentioned in the Bible, and we will ask the Lord to reveal to us which servant type we identify most with.

1. **NOTICE THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE SLOTHFUL SERVANTS.**

* Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and **slothful** **servant**, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Romans 12:11 not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Ecclesiastes 10:18 By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through. One of our first warnings in this lesson series was not to allow laziness and apathy into our hearts. Of all of the types of servants that we will consider today, it is very likely that a great deal of Christians could be identified as slothful servants. If we served in our jobs the same way that we served the Lord, would we still be employed? If you were a hiring manager, would you hire yourself based on your performance as a servant of the Lord? The definition of slothful is inactive; sluggish; lazy; indolent; idle. It’s not just that a slothful servant does not want to work; it’s that he does all that he can to avoid any activity. It seems that his resistance to activity is the only activity that the slothful man knows (Proverbs 26:15). He is grieved when he has to take his hand out of his bosom. There are so many churches who are in great decay because of slothful servants. We must not have idleness of hands. We must ask the Lord to strengthen our hands to do a great work.

1. **NOTICE THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE UNPROFITABLE SERVANTS.**

* Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do. Philemon 1:11 which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me: It should go without saying that the slothful servant would also be considered an unprofitable servant, but there are likely several ways in which a servant of the Lord might be unprofitable to the Lord. First, though, we must understand that every servant of God should view himself as unprofitable. The Lord commands us to view ourselves this way as a means to help keep us humble and recognize that we are simply doing an expected duty. The question, then, is whether the Lord sees you and me as unprofitable to Him. When it comes to being a profitable servant, it is not merely about doing something as a servant. What benefit or gain is had through your acts of service? The Bible warns us about doing things that bring about no real profit to the work of God (2 Timothy 2:14; 1 Corinthians 14:6). What have you done of real value for the cause of Jesus Christ? Let’s weigh every action against the will of God and His desire to draw all men to Him.

1. **NOTICE THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE EVIL SERVANTS.**

* Matthew 24:48-50 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; 49 and shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50 the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. When we think of an evil servant, what is the picture that comes to mind? Is it of some servant of the Lord doing some absolutely terrible thing? What if I told you that the Lord calls a procrastinating servant an evil servant? We find this to be the case in Matthew 24. The Lord refers to a servant who says in his heart that the Lord is delaying His coming. The word *evil* speaks to an absence of good. It is often associated in the Bible with harming others. We must understand that when we delay doing the work of God, we are committing evil against others. Harming someone is more than just bringing some type of physical harm to them. If we do not share the Gospel with others, we have harmed them immensely.

1. **NOTICE THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE WICKED SERVANTS.**

* Matthew 18:32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Luke 19:22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: Proverbs 29:12 If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked. While wicked and evil are very similar words, we find that they are not used interchangeably in the Bible. The usage of wickedness in the Bible leads us to define it as referring to behavior that is morally bad or corrupt. It is a willful disregard for God’s justice and righteousness. It is this last definition that aligns best with our text. The Bible refers to that servant who is unforgiving as a wicked servant. It also refers to that servant who does nothing with what God gave him as being wicked. In both cases, we see a servant who has no regard for what is just. Do we seek to serve the Lord justly? Are we willing to forgive as Christ forgives? Are we selfish with what Christ has given us?

1. **NOTICE THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE WISE SERVANTS.**

* Matthew 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Proverbs 14:35 The king’s favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame. Proverbs 17:2 A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren. Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Let’s now consider a good type of servant. There is a great need for wisdom among the servants of God. The Bible tells us that wisdom is the principal thing. We know that wisdom is important and that it cries out to mankind. We also know that God desires to impart His wisdom upon us. He gives it out liberally. In any job, a successful employee will be one who exhibits wisdom. What is wisdom? It is the proper use of knowledge and understanding. Application of knowledge is essential to a servant’s success. It is not enough to just know and understand what God says. We must understand how to do what God wants.

1. **NOTICE THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS.**

* Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Luke 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. Matthew 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Are there any greater words that we wish to hear when we enter Heaven’s gates more than “well done, good and faithful servant?” We ought to have a great desire to be a good worker for Jesus. To be good simply means to possess desirable qualities; beneficial; not weak or defective. The Lord looked at this earth before the fall of man and saw that it was good. Not only do we want to be good, but we also want to be faithful. This speaks to reliability, steadfastness, and unwavering. To be faithful is to be a servant who can be trusted. Can God trust you?

1. **AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, WE MUST SERVE THE LORD WITH SINGLENESS OF HEART.**
2. **AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, WE MUST EXAMINE WHO WE ARE TRYING TO PLEASE.**
3. **AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, WE MUST SERVE THE LORD WITH GOOD WILL.**
4. **AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, WE MUST SERVE THE LORD WITH JOYFULNESS AND GLADNESS.**
5. **AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, WE MUST NOT ALLOW LAZINESS AND APATHY INTO OUR HEARTS.**
6. **AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, OUR SERVICE IS A WILLFUL ACT OF SUBMISSION TO THE LORD.**
7. **AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, WE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR MASTER PAID OFF OUR GREAT DEBT.**
8. **AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE OWED NOTHING FROM THE LORD.**
9. **AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, WE OUGHT TO SERVE AS A SON SERVES HIS FATHER.**
10. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF MEDITATING ON THE MASTER’S WORD.**
11. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF LOOKING TO DO THE MASTER’S WILL.**
12. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF INSTANT OBEDIENCE TO THE MASTER.**
13. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF COMING AND GOING WHEN WE ARE CALLED AND SENT BY THE MASTER.**
14. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF LOOKING UPON THE MASTER’S WORK WITH THE SAME CARE THAT THE MASTER HAS FOR IT.**
15. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF TAKING CARE OF THE LITTLE THINGS.**
16. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF SERVING OTHER PEOPLE.**
17. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF AVOIDING UNNECESSARY STRIFE.**
18. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF FEARING THE MASTER IN ALL THAT WE DO.**
19. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF WATCHING FOR THE MASTER.**
20. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO CONSTANTLY STRIVES TO THINK LIKE CHRIST.**
21. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO HOLDS HIMSELF ACCOUNTABLE.**
22. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE REGARD FOR HIS REPUTATION.**
23. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO DOESN’T GET DISTRACTED BY TRIVIAL THINGS.**
24. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO MUST BE CLEAN FOR SERVICE.**
25. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD THROUGH THE WORK OF PRAISE.**
26. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD THROUGH THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL.**
27. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD THROUGH THE WORK OF PRAYER.**
28. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD THROUGH THE WORK OF GIVING**
29. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY CARING FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.**
30. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY OFFERING SPIRITUAL EDIFICATION TO OTHERS.**
31. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY THE PREACHING AND TEACHING OF HIS WORD.**
32. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY BEING AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.**
33. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY DOING EVERYTHING HEARTILY TO THE LORD.**
34. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE PURITY OF SERVICE.**
35. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE PREFERENCE OF SERVICE.**
36. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE PURPOSE OF SERVICE.**
37. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE PLAINNESS OF SERVICE.**
38. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE PROFIT OF SERVICE.**

* **RIGHTEOUS SERVANT**

Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

* **FAITHFUL SERVANT**
* **SERVANT OF CORRUPTION**

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

* **SERVANT OF SIN**

Romans 6:20-22 20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. 21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. 22But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.