**THE HABITS OF THE SERVANT**

Sunday School Lesson 3

*Servants of Christ*

Psalm 119:23-38

8/20/2023

**Introduction:** Last week, we took a second look at the heart of the servant. First, we saw that servants of Christ must serve the Lord with joyfulness and gladness. Our service to Him should not be done with resentment or anger. It ought not to be done just because we know that we are supposed to do it. Second, we saw that servants of Christ must not allow laziness and apathy into our hearts. We must understand that service inclines itself to work. A wicked servant procrastinates in his service. We are to be waiting eagerly for His return. We are not to be apathetic about the work of Christ. This will lead to us putting His work on the back burner. Our service to Him ought to be front and center in our lives. Third, we saw that servants of Christ should understand that our service is a willful act of submission to the Lord. Ultimately, no one is making you be a servant of Christ. It’s a choice that you have to make on an individual level. It’s a willingness to submit in humility to the leadership and the work of Jesus Christ. It is an attitude of desiring the Lord’s will and seeking to accomplish it. Fourth, we saw that servants of Christ must understand that our Master paid off our great debt. As we consider the choice of service, we should remember what we were faced with before our salvation. Christ saved our soul and paid off the debt of our sins. Needless to say, we owe Him more than we could ever pay back in our service to Him. Fifth, we saw that servants of Christ must understand that we are owed nothing from the Lord. Lastly, we saw that servants of Christ ought to serve as children serve their Father. In today’s lesson, we are going to look at the habits that ought to be formed and present in the life of a servant of Christ.

1. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF MEDITATING ON THE MASTER’S WORD.**

* Psalm 119:23 Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. Psalm 119:38 Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. Psalm 119:135 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes. 1 Kings 18:36b let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. It ought not to surprise us that most of our lessons come back to the fundamental need that we have to be in the Word of God. If we cannot grasp this basic need, we will surely be lacking in anything else that we seek to do. When it comes to being a servant, it should be an obvious essential to us to know the Master’s Word. How can we serve Him if we do not know what His Word says for us to do? All that we do is supposed to be at His command. Knowing this, we ought to not just know the Word of God but meditate on His Word. We need to be in the habit of meditation because it keeps us honest in our actions for the Lord. It causes us to constantly be evaluating whether we are truly serving Him or seeking to do our own will. It also keeps us in a ready status to do what needs to be done in the present. A wise servant keeps his master’s instructions close to his mind to ensure that he is not forgetful in what needs to be accomplished. We must create a habit of meditating on the Bible. It will cause us to be the servants that we ought to be for Christ.

1. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF LOOKING TO DO THE MASTER’S WILL.**

* Psalm 123:2 Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he have mercy upon us. Psalm 119:125 I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies. Luke 12:47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. In connection with the servant’s need to continually meditate on the Master’s Word, the servant must also be in the habit of looking to do the Master’s will. This is a common behavior of a good servant that we see throughout the Word of God. This is a proactive approach to our service toward the Lord. I’d like to think that most Christians desire to do the will of God, but I don’t think very many of them are actively looking to do His will. If you were hiring someone to work for you, wouldn’t you want someone who is proactive in getting the work done? How frustrated would you be with someone who rarely did anything because they weren’t sure what to do next? The Lord gives us the parable of the wicked servant who had that type of mindset. He was not in the habit of seeking what the Master wanted him to do. Consequently, he chose to sit on his responsibilities, and the Master was greatly displeased with him. We must be in the habit of looking for what the Lord wants done. Don’t wait!

1. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF INSTANT OBEDIENCE TO THE MASTER.**

* Matthew 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. Ephesians 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Joshua 24:24 And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey. We observed that a servant of Christ makes a willful act of submission to the Lord. This means that we agree to submit to His commands. We agree to obey Him as our Master. We see in the Word of God so many examples of servants who were asked to do something, and they did it without hesitation or overthinking it. We need servants of Christ who have this same mindset. If Christ says to do it, you just do it. You don’t have to think about it. You don’t have to consider whether it is worth it or not. You shouldn’t consider whether you want to do it or not. You are a servant. You just do what you are instructed to do. You don’t hesitate. Each of us needs to build a habit of instant obedience. The best way to build this habit is to start one command at a time. If you are delaying an action for the Lord right now, let’s not delay any further. Start the instant obedience habit today.

1. **SERVANTS OF CHRIST MUST BE IN THE HABIT OF COMING AND GOING WHEN WE ARE CALLED AND SENT BY THE MASTER.**

* Isaiah 42:19 Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord’s servant? Matthew 21:34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. Matthew 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. A servant of the Lord must understand that he is going to be called and sent. As mentioned previously, service inclines itself to work. It is movement. It is action. It is not always stationary. The Master is going to send His servants to various places. He is also going to call His servants to get their attention. We must be in the habit of coming when the Master calls us. He shouldn’t have to yell. He should be able to barely whisper and have us come running. Additionally, when the Master sends us out, we ought to get moving quickly and be willing to go wherever He sends us. Again, this ties in with the active obedience and the seeking to do the will of the Father. When the Lord called His people to the land of Canaan, there was no need to scout out the land. The Master had already told them to go. Let’s not get too preoccupied scouting out where God is trying to send us. We already know where our final destination is. It ought not to matter much to us where the Master sends us to labor for Him.

1. **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.**

* Matthew 13:27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? Luke 15:22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. John 10:13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. We must see the work of Christ and strive to have the same care for it that the Master has for it. We are not to view ourselves as hirelings for the Lord. We are not doing what we are doing just because we owed a debt that we could never pay off. We are servant children to the Heavenly Father. We want what He wants because our inheritance is in Him. Our flesh, though, is not in the habit of caring for the work of the Father. Thus, we must bring our bodies and hearts under submission, and we must direct our cares toward the things of the Lord. Everything that we do for Him ought to be treated with the utmost care. That’s what a good servant does. He looks on his master’s possessions as if they were his own. Let’s start to form some habits that will help us to be the kind of servants for Christ that we need to be!

*Psalm 119:91 They continue this day according to thine ordinances: for all are thy servants.*

*Malachi 1:6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?*

*Matthew 20:27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:*

*Matthew 22:10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.*

*Matthew 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.*

*15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

*Mark 13:34 For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:*

*Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.*

*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.*

*John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

*1 Corinthians 9:19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.*

*2 Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*

*1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.*

*2 Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,*

*John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

*1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.*