**THE SPECIFICS OF SERVICE**

Sunday School Lesson 6

*Servants of Christ*

Luke 12:43

9/10/2023

**Lesson Recap:** Through our first five lessons on being servants of Christ, we’ve looked at the heart/attitude of a servant, the habits of a servant, and the form of a servant. When it comes to the form of a servant, we know that Christ is our example on what the servant ought to look like. We observed last week that a servant of Christ is one who strives to think like the Lord. We are commanded to let the mind of Christ be in us. This will help us to truly have the form of a servant. We also observed that a servant of Christ is someone who holds himself accountable. The servant of the Lord knows that he is going to stand before His Master one day. He does not put off accountability to that day. He holds himself accountable now. He recognizes what Christ has done for him, and he sees his personal responsibility to the work of the Lord. The third observation we made is that a servant of Christ is someone who does not have regard for his reputation. We know Christ’s principle regarding our desire to be first. He tells us that the first shall be last. The greatest shall be a servant. The servant of the Lord is not looking to get the most recognition. He is simply focused on the work that he has to do and the need to please the Master. The glory all belongs to the Master anyways. We also observed that a servant of Christ is someone who doesn’t get distracted by trivial things. He focuses on the work that he has to do. Lastly, we observed that a servant of Christ is someone who must be clean for service. We are performing a sacred duty in our service to the Lord. We ought to treat it as such and be sure to stay clean as we serve Him. Today, let’s consider some specific areas that we can serve the Lord in:

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD THROUGH THE WORK OF PRAISE.**
2. **Notice that giving verbal praise to God is an act of service to Him.** Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. (Rev. 22:3) The Bible shows us that people in Heaven are serving the Lord. How exactly are they serving Him? While there may be other things that they are doing, the only thing that the Bible tells us is that they are around the throne of Heaven giving praise to the Lord. Thus, we understand that speaking praise to God is an act of service to Him. Psalm 150:6 shows us that everything that hath breath ought to be inclined to praising the Lord. On two different occasions in the book of Psalms (113:1 and 135:1), we find that the servants of the Lord are commanded to praise Him and His name. This verbal praise ought to be both private and public in nature. That’s because it ought to be a continual area of service for all of us. We praise Him at home. We praise Him when we are out in public. We praise Him anywhere and everywhere that we can.
3. **Notice that giving musical praise to God is an act of service to Him.** Psalm 100:2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 2 Chronicles 35:15 And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king’s seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them. We find that the verbal service of praise can be fulfilled in the act of singing to the Lord. There is something special about music. It is a beautiful design of the Lord. He created sound waves and its impact on a human being. Music is emotional, and it is very expressive. It’s a great way to express our love and praise of God. We find music in Heaven (Revelation 15:3). Music is mentioned in both the Old and New Testament. For the Israelites, they had individuals who were specifically appointed to the service of music. While everyone who can make a joyful noise to the Lord ought to serve the Lord through music, it is reasonable to conclude that God created certain individuals with a special gift for music. We don’t find a music director in the early churches, but we know that music was certainly present and prevalent in the early church. We also see the term “chief musician” used throughout the book of Psalms. As we serve the Lord through music, we must be careful not to allow it to become a fleshly, self-promoting service, and we must also make sure we do not serve with apathy or coldness.
4. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD THROUGH THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL.**

* Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. Matthew 22:4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. Philippians 2:22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. Is there any area of service more obvious than the sharing of the Gospel? Christ gave the command to His disciples to go and to preach the Gospel. Additionally, He shows us in several parables His desire for His servants. He wants for them to go and tell others that the marriage is ready! He wants us to go and compel them to come in. He desires for His house to be full. As servants of Christ, we have a great responsibility to the service of the Gospel. Being a witness for Jesus Christ is also another form of verbal praise. When we tell others what Christ has done for us, we are giving Him the glory and honor that He is worthy of. What will the Master’s response be to that servant who has chosen rather to be a sluggard than to share His message? What if every one of Christ’s servants today treated the service of the Gospel as importantly as it ought to be treated? Let us not be slothful in that which God has called us to do.

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD THROUGH THE WORK OF PRAYER.**

* Luke 2:37 and she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; I love what the Bible tells us about the serving widow in Luke 2:37. What was her specific area of service? What was she contributing to the work of the Lord? The Bible tells us plainly what her service was. She served God with fastings and prayers night and day. While it’s true that this dear lady was also called a prophetess, the Bible emphasized prayer as her area of service. Some folks shrug or undermine the service of prayer in comparison to other areas of service, but what truly can be done for the cause of Christ if prayer is absent from that work? Prayer is an absolute essential service. God requires it. He demands it of His servants. We noticed last week how Mary was focused on spending time with Christ while Martha was focused on trivial things. How many servants today are behaving the same way? We cannot neglect to come and sit at Jesus’ feet and fellowship with Him! A good servant will communicate his own needs and the needs of others to His Master. The servant will also sit at the table any time that the Master calls him to sit!

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD THROUGH THE WORK OF GIVING.**

* 2 Corinthians 11:8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. Matthew 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (2 Corinthians 9:12; Philippians 2:30; Romans 16:1-4) Another specific area of service that we find in the Bible is the area of giving. Specifically, we are looking here at financial giving. Consider how the Israelites in the Old Testament served the Lord. They came to the temple, and they offered up various animal sacrifices. Just like today, these animals represented wealth/value. Their livelihood was based on those animals. Yet, they willingly gave up those animals in pursuit of their service to the Lord. Paul referred to an offering from the church at Corinth on two separate occasions as a service. We serve the Lord through our tithes and offerings. What was one of the first areas of service that the new believers did in the book of Acts? They came and gave to the work of God. We also serve the Lord through giving to others. Christ shows us this plainly in Matthew 25:37. When we give to those in need, it is as if we are giving to the Lord Himself.

*Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business? Romans 12:11 not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

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.**

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

Colossians 3:23-25 and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Ephesians 6:6 not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

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

1 Corinthians 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

Acts 2:18 and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Romans 16:27 to God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. Written to the Romans from Corinthus, and sent by Phebe servant of the church at Cenchrea.

1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: 2 that ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

Romans 16:17-18 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Romans 15:31 that I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judæa; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Romans 12:1 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. 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

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.

Acts 6:1-3 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Luke 22:27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.