**THE SPECIFICS OF SERVICE (2)**

Sunday School Lesson 7

*Servants of Christ*

Luke 12:43

9/17/2023

**Lesson Recap:** For the second consecutive week, we are going to be looking at the specifics of service. Before we move on to today’s lesson, let’s take a moment to recap what was covered last week. First, a servant of Christ serves the Lord through the work of praise. In Heaven, we will serve the Lord by praising His name while we gather around His throne. We know that everything that hath breath is commanded to praise the Lord. We also see that the service of praise includes musical praise to Him. God is the creator of music, and music is present in both Heaven and earth. God desires for us to praise Him with joyful singing. Second, a servant of Christ serves the Lord through the work of the Gospel. Our responsibility to the Gospel is clearly seen throughout the New Testament. The Lord used several parables involving servants that were illustrative of us as the messengers of the Gospel in this world. It was the last command that He gave to His disciples before ascending up to Heaven. Every servant of Christ ought to serve Him in the Gospel. Third, a servant of Christ serves the Lord through the work of prayer. A servant serves his master by bringing messages to him and presenting him with needs within his domain. Likewise, as servants of Christ, we serve Him by bringing things before His throne in prayer. While the Lord already knows all of the affairs of men, He still desires for His servants to come to Him and communicate with Him. Lastly, a servant of Christ serves the Lord through the work of giving. Again, this is not because God has need of any material thing, but it’s the will and design of God for His servants to give to the work of God. Let’s now consider some additional specifics when it comes to serving God.

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY CARING FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.**

* 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. The office of deacon in the church was established out of a request for the apostles to care for those within the church who were in need of help relating to their everyday needs in life. The apostles discerned that it would not be feasible for them to serve the Lord in the work of the Gospel, prayer, and in study and teaching of God’s Word while also serving the daily needs of the quickly growing group of believers around them. As a result, deacons were chosen from among the church, and they were specifically tasked with the job of caring for the widows and general business of daily ministration in the church. It's important to understand that this area of service is not restricted to deacons only in the church. All of us should be of the mindset of helping care for the needs of other as we are able to. Some may have more availability and ability to help in such matters than others. Each person ought to consider the extent to which they can help.

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY OFFERING SPIRITUAL EDIFICATION TO OTHERS.**

* 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. (Rom. 6:20-22; 12:11) The context in Romans 14 speaks to our dealing with other believers. We are to be careful not to cast a stumbling block before them by our liberty. We are to be careful not to be spiteful with regards to that liberty that we have in Christ. It is within this framework that the verses are given to us. It is a call for us to serve the Lord and one another in righteousness, peace, and joy. By these things, we can edify one another. Regarding righteousness, we serve others through edification by instructing them in what is right according to God’s Word. Regarding peace, we serve others through edification by being both peacemakers and peacekeepers. We can also edify them by speaking words of peace to them and encouraging them to find peace in Christ. Regarding joy, we serve others through edification by showing others the joy that we ought to have in Christ. We promote rejoicing among the saints of God. A joyful person in the church is of great service to the Lord and to that local church. People who are lacking in joy are not likely to do much in their service for Christ. They need to be edified by Godly joy.

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY THE PREACHING AND TEACHING OF HIS WORD.**

* 2 Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 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: This point has been a regular topic of our Wednesday evening Bible study in Ephesians 4. We know that God has given individuals within the church for the purpose of preaching and teaching. Their primary area of service is to communicate with others what the Lord has spoken. God’s Word has been given for His children to study and meditate. While not everyone is called to this specific area of service within the church, we do know that every parent is called to serve the Lord in this manner in the home. A parent’s responsibility of service to God is to raise up that child in the admonish of the Lord. Regarding the matter of being called to this service, let’s also consider that there might be some who would be called to teach, but they have not grown in the Lord as they ought to have. Hebrews 5:12 warns us about spiritual immaturity limiting our ability to teach others as we ought to.

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY BEING AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.**

* Hebrews 8:5 who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. 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. Hebrews 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (Romans 12:1-4) Last week, we observed how we serve the Lord by being a vocal witness for Him. We see that we also serve the Lord by being a visible witness for Him. Every child of God in the Word of God was used for the service of God by being an example for us to look at. While our lives today are not being recorded in God’s Word for future generations, we understand that God still desires for us to serve Him by being an example to others around us and in future generations. We are called to let our light so shine before men. Our hope is that they will see the good works done through the work of Christ, and they will glorify the Heavenly Father. While being a visual witness does not take the place of being a vocal witness, it is a tool that God will use. This is why it is so important for us to observe the final point in the lesson:

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST SERVES THE LORD BY DOING EVERYTHING HEARTILY TO THE LORD.**

* Col. 3:23-24 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. Rom. 16:1 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. 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. While these two lessons have been about the specifics of service, this last point on the matter is to make it clear for us that every area of our life ought to be for the service of the Lord. We are commanded to do everything heartily as to the Lord and not unto men. As servants of the Lord, we are never off the clock from serving Him. Our lives are to be for His service. Our bodies are to be for His service (Romans 12:1). Every day that you go into work you ought to be serving the Lord there. Every time you go into the community you ought to be serving God there. Every moment you spend at home you ought to be serving God there. How does this happen? It happens by doing everything in His name. It happens by considering His will and His Word in everything that we do. Let’s be totally committed to giving a life of service to the Lord. Let’s consider Him in all that we say and do. He is our loving and merciful Master.

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.**

*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;*

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.

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.