**THE FORM OF A SERVANT**

Sunday School Lesson 5

*Servants of Christ*

Philippians 2:5-11

9/03/2023

**Introduction:** During last week’s lesson, we continued our study on the habits of a servant of Christ. In total, we have now observed ten habits that a servant of Christ ought to have. Before moving on to today’s lesson, let’s recall quickly the last five habits that we observed. First, the servants of Christ must be in the habit of taking care of the little things. The servant does not get to pick the task that he is called to do. A Godly, faithful servant does not ignore the little tasks in hopes of getting a larger assignment. The Godly servant completes whatever task he is given. Second, servants of Christ must be in the habit of serving other people. The challenge for the servants of Christ is to find the right balance between serving others and pleasing others. We are called to please God and not men. Ultimately, our service to others is under the umbrella of our overall service to Christ. We ought to weigh every act of service done toward others against the Word, will, and desire of the Lord. Our first responsibility is always to the Master. Third, servants of Christ must be in the habit of avoiding unnecessary strife. Again, this is a challenge for the believer. We are called to be soldiers of Christ. We are called to fight the good fight of faith. How can we possibly avoid strife as a servant of Christ? We are able to avoid it because our fight is not against flesh and blood. Our fight is against spiritual wickedness in high places. Fourth, servants of Christ must be in the habit of fearing the Master in all that we do. The Lord expects for His servants to have a reverential fear of Him. After all, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Only a foolish servant would go about his serving without any regard toward the Master. Fifth, servants of Christ must be in the habit of watching for the Master. His return continues to draw closer and closer. We must be ready servants. In today’s lesson, we are going to consider how we can take on the form of a servant like Jesus Christ did during His earthly ministry.

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO CONSTANTLY STRIVES TO THINK LIKE CHRIST.**

* Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7a but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, When we looked at the first set of habits for the servants of Christ, we saw how important it is for us to keep the Master’s Word, will, and work at the forefront of everything that we do. The best way for us to accomplish this is to have the mind of Christ. Notice that this is the call that the book of Philippians is making to me and you. The Lord wants us to let His mind be in us. That mind helps us to look on the needs of others. It also causes us not to be engaged in those unnecessary fights. We cannot have the proper form of a servant if we are not willing to let the mind of the greatest Servant of all time dwell within us. The mind of Christ pushes us to be whatever we need to be to accomplish the service of the Lord. Christ took on flesh to accomplish His Father’s will. The only begotten Son of God willingly chose to descend into this world to make Himself obedient to death. That’s the mind we need!

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO HOLDS HIMSELF ACCOUNTABLE.**

* Matthew 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. In this parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus Christ shows us that a servant must make himself accountable. The servant had been forgiven all of his debts, and he thought that he could just do whatever he wanted now. When the time came for him to forgive someone, he chose instead to treat that person with hostility. The unforgiving servant should have recognized that he was still expected to be accountable to the one who had forgiven his great debt. As servants of the Lord, we noticed previously that our life has been bought with a price. It does not belong to us. With that in mind, we ought to continue to hold ourselves accountable with the Lord and with others whom the Lord has placed in our life. Jesus Christ stayed accountable to His Heavenly Father. He checked in with the Father regularly throughout His earthly ministry. Let’s remember that we will all have to give an account before the Lord one day. Let’s seek out people around us who can help us to stay accountable to the Lord.

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE REGARD FOR HIS REPUTATION.**

* Philippians 2:7 but made himself of no reputation, Matthew 23:10-12 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. 11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. Mark 9:35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. (Luke 22:26-28) This speaks to the humility that must be present with a servant of Christ. The Lord Jesus Himself shows us an example of this. He took the time to wash the disciples feet. They were not worthy of this being done to them, but He did it because He had taken on the form of a servant. He gives us an example by making Himself of no reputation. Last week, we looked at how we must be in the habit of doing the little things. We talked about how important it was for us not to focus on how big the task is that we are called to do. We were reminded that we ought not to complain if we don’t get the job we want from the Lord. This ties in with the thought of our reputation. As servants of Christ, nothing we do is about us. It is all about the Master. If we have a talent that the Lord has given us, we should use it while giving Him all the glory and honor for it. We should be constantly deflecting personal praise to the only One who is truly worthy of our praise.

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO DOESN’T GET DISTRACTED BY TRIVIAL THINGS.**

* Luke 10:40-42 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. 41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: 42 but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Romans 16:18 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. Christ shows us the form of a servant in His demeanor regarding His service. The Lord did not allow the distractions around Him to derail Him from the Father’s work. The best example of this is found in Christ’s younger years. Joseph and Mary were looking for Him, but they could not find Him anywhere. Eventually, they found Jesus in the temple, and He was there teaching the people. In their frustration, they questioned why Jesus had stayed behind. To them, it might have seemed like Christ was getting distracted on the wrong things. The opposite was true though. Jesus told them that He had to be about His Father’s business. Jesus never once allowed Himself to get distracted from His service. May we take on the same form as servants and not let all of the things of this world distract us from service.

1. **A SERVANT OF CHRIST IS SOMEONE WHO MUST BE CLEAN FOR SERVICE.**

* Romans 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. 20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. 22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Romans 12:1-2) The priests in the Old Testament were called to perform the service in the temple. These priests were servants of God who were called to a particular area of service. In order to accomplish that service, it was expected that the priests would remain clean. Depending on the type of service done, the uncleanness of a priest could cost him his life. In order for Jesus Christ to accomplish the service as our great High Priest, He had to live a perfect, sinless life. While we cannot live a completely sinless life in our flesh, we can seek with the Spirit’s help to remain as clean as possible during our service to the Master. After all, we represent Him. It’s only right that we live according to the righteousness of His Word. Let’s be sure to be clean servants for the Master!

Luke 10:40-42 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. **41**And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: **42**but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Romans 16:18 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.

*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.**