



Life Group Study Notes

“At Your Service”

Ps. James Lowe - June 5, 2016

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What restaurant do you think provides outstanding service? What is great about their service?
- What job have you had that demanded the most service from you?
- Who is someone that recently provided you with great service? What did they do for you?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Philippians 1:27 ESV *Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...*

Philippians 2:1-11 ESV *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

God calls us to follow Jesus' example and be servants who give our lives in service for the benefit of others and the glory of God.

1. Mindset

We are to have the same mindset as the Son of God who humbled himself and took the form of a servant. As a servant Christ did not put his own interests above those of others, even though he had every right to do so. He is the creator and deserved to be served by his own creation. Yet he served the needs of humanity to the point of being abused, tortured, and crucified, so that our deep spiritual needs might be met through his sufferings and death.

He emptied himself of his rights and privileges as the Son of God in order become our servant. He did not freely demonstrate his beauty and power and wisdom, but lived an obscure normal human life until the time came for his public ministry. Even then he only demonstrated his divinity in measures according to the leading of the Father. His primary role during his earthly life was that of a servant.

2. Motivation

Jesus was motivated to please the Father, not himself. The Father's good pleasure was what mattered most to him. In everything he sought to do the Father's will. He sought the Father so deeply in Scripture and prayer and worship, that he was able to say that he only did what he discerned was according to the Father's will. He only spoke what he heard the Father saying. His entire aim was to reflect the heart and character of the Father. This is what enabled him to endure such opposition and hostility as he did indeed suffer. He was not motivated by selfish ambition or the desire to merely please people.

He also put his hope in the reward that would come to him from the Father for his obedience. That reward would be both the inheritance of many sons and daughters who would be redeemed by his sacrifice, and the elevation of himself as a human to the place of absolute authority over all creation and all nations. Jesus was given authority and dominion over all peoples as King of kings.

3. Manifestation

As a sacrificial servant Jesus was blessed with the Father's presence, glory, and power. During his earthly public ministry Jesus was anointed with power to heal the sick and deliver the oppressed. Throughout his earthly life he enjoyed the Father's presence. And after his death and resurrection he was exalted to the highest place of honor, authority, and power in all creation. He was restored to his former glory, not only as the Son of God, but also as the Son of Man. Now as a human he sits in the seat of honor, governing the entire creation, including the earth and all of its inhabitants.

Conclusion

In the same way God honored Jesus for obeying the Father as a humble servant, so we should put our hope and trust in God who will likewise bless and honor us for the sacrifices we make to serve him and others. If we will adopt Jesus' mindset, be motivated by the Father's promise of reward, and expect God's blessings as a consequence, we can follow in Jesus' footsteps. We too can expect God's blessings in this life, and more importantly his rewards in the life that follows life.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.

- Is there any adjustment that is needed in your mindset when it comes to serving others?
- What motivates you to serve others sacrificially?
- What action steps should you take to increase your service of others?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Ask God to reveal Christ's heart of servanthood to us in a greater way.
- Ask God for direction on how to best serve others at this time.
- Ask God for grace to empower us to grow in service to others.