



# The Hallmark of Servanthood

**"So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).**

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"But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:7-10).

In this competitive, domineering and 'entitlement' infected culture, many no longer have or value the concept of servant-hood - a key virtue in God's kingdom. Some are like the disciples of Christ in his period before the cross - striving for position and power, and totally oblivious of what they were called to do (Luke 22:24). In the midst of the strife, Jesus painted to them, with His life, the greatness of servant-hood. "And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. 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" (Luke 22:25-27).

Servanthood is a prized value in the sight of God. Many of God's choice ministers like Moses, Joshua, Joseph, David, etc., first proved themselves as effective and faithful servants prior to their call into divine ministry. God has not changed, neither has His ways and methods of choice. Therefore, those who desire to be of use in His kingdom, should pay particular attention to Christ's teaching in this parable, from which we can deduce the following principles:

1) "But which of you, having a servant plowing

**"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2).**

or feeding cattle..." (vs. 7). Servants usually have specific duties they perform for their owners. Servanthood is an office with responsibilities not a throne for celebration.

2) "Will say unto him by and by..." (vs. 7,8). Servants take instructions and directions from their owners. Although they can exercise personal judgment in certain situations and to certain limits, ultimately, it is not their call to make the final decision on when it is best to do a particular thing. They might prefer things to be done in a particular order, but ultimately, it is their owners preference that must prevail. When Moses was about to build a tabernacle for God, God first took him to a mountain and showed him the pattern, and thereafter commanded him "See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 8:5).

3) "Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not" (vs. 9). It would not be wrong or out of place for the owner to thank the servant for service rendered; however, it is not the norm for that to happen, and a servant who expects 'thanks' is setting himself / herself up for major disappointment. The key message here is that servants should reckon the services they render as their necessary duty so as to retain the favour of the master for continued privilege to serve. "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).

May God grant us a servant's heart and the right attitude in service, that will bring better opportunities for more service.