



Generous Service
Galatians 5:13
September 28, 2014

Introduction:



Truett Cathy:

“Nearly every moment of every day we have the opportunity to give something to someone else – our time, our love, our resources. I have always found more joy in giving when I did not expect anything in return. I learned very early in my business that a restaurant needs three things in order to succeed; capital, talent, and service. It was always ‘my pleasure’ to serve the people.”

Galatians 5:13 (ASV) For ye, brethren, were called for freedom; only use not your freedom for an occasion to the flesh, but through love serve one to another.

Five Characteristics of Generous Disciples:

1. Generous Disciples Serve Jesus Sacrificially.

John 12:23-26 And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

Fruit Consists of Three Things:

- A. Fruit always bears the character of the tree to which it belongs.
- B. Fruit is always visible.
- C. Fruit was never intended for self-consumption.

Until we get a better understanding of the cross, we will never fully know what it means to die and to serve one another.

2. Generous Disciples Serve Jesus Reliably.

Acts 20:17-20 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ *serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials* that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house.

I Thessalonians 2:5-9 For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷ But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. ⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

3. Generous Disciples Serve Jesus Passionately.

Romans 12:9-11 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, and serve the Lord.

Takeaway:

Don't let what you do for God get ahead of your walk with God.

4. Generous Disciples Serve Jesus Dependently.

I Peter 4:10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

5. Generous Disciples Serve Jesus Selflessly.

Principle:

If you live your life only for yourself then you will never be blessed of God. Our service for Jesus must eventually work itself out into the life of someone else.

Matthew 20:20-28 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. ²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on your right and one on your left." ²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able." ²³ He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on my right and on *my* left, this is not mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father." ²⁴ And hearing *this*, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶ "It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.