

October 27, 2013

## **A Disciple and His Service**

*Selected Scripture*

Given the importance of securing competent leaders in the church, we might think that the Bible would use the term "leader" more often. Instead, the KJV Bible only uses the term about six times. In those times, however, the leader's role is referred to as "servant." We do not read about "Moses, my leader", but "Moses, my servant." And this is exactly what Jesus taught. Jesus was a revolutionary, not in warfare, but in leadership and teaching. Most people are not attracted to such a low-value role, but Jesus' use of the term is a synonym for greatness.

Jesus taught the Kingdom of God was a community where each family member serves one another. But make no mistake about it; servants are the people whom God will allow to run the kingdom.

### **Six Characteristics of a Serving Disciple:**

#### **1. Disciples serve Jesus sacrificially** (*John 12:23-26*)

John MacArthur:

"The Lord's point was that He would be glorified, but through death and resurrection. There could never be the establishing of His kingdom with all its features promised in the Scriptures without the cross. Anyone who thinks that Jesus came to offer the kingdom to Israel without the cross, and thinks the cross was only a reaction because of Israel's unbelief, is a fool. Likewise, anyone who comes to Jesus today and thinks that there is life without bearing his cross is a fool as well. Discipleship means the bearing of a cross."

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 to self and live by faith.

#### **2. Disciples serve Jesus reliably** (*Acts 20:17-20; I Thessalonians 2:5-10*)

**3. Disciples serve Jesus with passion** (*Romans 12:9-11*)

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

**4. Disciples serve Jesus with great priority** (*Luke 9:57-61*)

3 Disciples That Lost Priority:

- A. The talking disciple (Luke 9:57-58)
- B. The procrastinating disciple (Luke 9:59-60)
- C. The undecided disciple (Luke 9:61-62)

**5. Disciples serve Jesus selflessly** (*Matthew 20:20-28*)

- One of the best exercises for any marriage is to have a contest to see which partner can out serve the other. Every marriage would begin to rise to another level in that type of environment. Marriages are in trouble today because two selfish people are demanding their own way.

**This Week's Generosity Task:**

Find a person in the body of Christ or outside the body of Christ, and seek the Lord's wisdom as to how you can practically serve them without any expectations in return.