

NYT

## **70 The Servant of God**

A citizen of The Kingdom of God is a servant of God!

We have lost the concept of the word ‘servant’ so, few of us know what it means to be a servant – let alone God’s servant. In the four ‘Servant Songs’ of Isaiah, God shows us what it means to be God’s Servant!

A servant is one who submits to the will of his master. A slave does also. The difference is a servant can choose whom he will serve where a slave cannot! In a sense we are slaves as we have been purchased by The Blood of Jesus but we are really servants choosing whom we will serve (God or Satan) and how we will serve (lukewarm, half-heartedly, or wholeheartedly)!

The servant must at times do things which are unpalatable and which seem to have no rhyme, reason, or purpose. They may be exposed to hardship or suffering or the mockery of man. They must accept these in the belief that God is in charge and that they will be rewarded for what they do, but not necessarily in this life! They must trust God completely and not his own emotions or reason!

They must also remember that they are doing The Will of their Master, Jesus, so really, He is the one being ridiculed and rejected and not them so they are to commit to him all they suffer on His behalf and He will deal with His (and thus their) adversary and reward them for their suffering.

The problem with churches is that people choose how to serve and do not ask The Holy Spirit where they are to serve and/or not sufficiently study The Word to see how God desires them to serve!

The ‘Servant’ Songs show us how God desires His servant to serve!!!

### **Is 42:1-9**

#### **The servant is elected for God’s Purposes (Is 42.1–4)**

*1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.*

*2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.*

*3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.*

*4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.*

God elects you to be a servant. You do not assume this authority by yourself otherwise you do not have God's Authority or Empowerment to support you in the work you do. He trains His servant, empowers (anoints and authorises them for the service) and guides them, and because they have been elected by God, they have God's authority in the area they serve Him in. God also supports His servant in the work they have been given.

He elects His servant for His purposes. The servant will always know what His Master (Jesus) wants him to do. He may not know why he is doing it but he will always know what His Master requires of him. In fact, they do not need to know why they are doing it but just need to trust Jesus for the reason to do it.

This shows the danger of assuming a ministry and not being appointed by God. The person assuming a ministry is not authorized or empowered by God and will only work in the power of their 'flesh"! The results of this ministry will not stand the test of time, unlike that of God's chosen, elected servant.

If their heart is right before God, He will honour their service to Him in some way but not in the way He would have liked too. They are still serving Him but not in the way He wants them to so are not on the path of maximum blessing and productivity. He honours their heart commitment and not their results as they may be even hindering His work by what they are doing.

This is the problem of many immature people who seek to be a minister in a church but really do not know what God wants them to do and assume they are to be a minister. Often this is sought to unconsciously bolster their self-esteem so not only are they not mature sufficiently to minister but also bring in to their ministry problems and hurts of the past that will hinder their being effective in their work.

No wonder ministers burn out and resign as they use up all their fleshly energy and have no spiritual energy left. No wonder churches do not function properly as the minister tries to be holy, meet the need of his own problems, run a family, and try and meet the needs of the denomination in that local church he has assumed he is in control of.

God's servant will not glorify or promote himself or his God-given ministry which is why God chooses him. He always points to Jesus when asked how things happened or why he is so 'successful'.

The sole purpose of the servant is to serve Jesus.

The servant will not destroy what remains spiritually of a person's faith in God but will encourage and support what is left of their faith. This is because they love them as Jesus does. They will help them and sustain them so they can cope with the trial they are going through and plead their cause so truth and justice is done! They do all they can to help people know Jesus and to mature them and they and show the Love of God to people in all they do.

Because the servant has God supporting them, they will not be discouraged and will

accomplish the purpose God has set for them to do!

### **The purpose of the servant is described Is 42.5–9**

*5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:*

*6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;*

*7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.*

*8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*

*9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.*

The servant is to live a life that exemplifies the relationship people are to have with God and will teach people how to have this relationship! They will open the eyes of the spiritually blind and will rescue captives from the prison Satan has them in so they will be able to enjoy this new relationship with God.

This is the ministry of The Messiah (Jesus who quoted Is 61:1-2 regarding this), and is the ministry of all who would be like The Messiah.

God does this so that the glory usurped by Satan is restored to God. God will not let another have His glory: servant, demon, or anyother rejecting His Authority. The servant is used to restore to God the worship that is due to God by the people of the nations.

The servant is the messenger of God, revealing God to the nations. He will reveal and demonstrate by his life the new relationship God has with those who will accept the teachings of his Master, Jesus.!

### **The commissioning of the servant is described Is 49.1–6**

*1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.*

*2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;*

*3 And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.*

*4 Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and*

*in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God.*

*5 And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.*

*6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*

While the servant was being formed in his mother's womb God called him to be a servant of His. God prepared him for ministry. He polished his speech and character and hid him until the appointed time of his ministry.

He told His servant that he will glorify God by the way he serves God! People will see that God is the source of his actions and give Glory to God because of the way the servant expresses God through his life!

The servant does not care about the rewards of men or earthly riches but is content to be rewarded by God in heaven. God will strengthen him in this and because of his life, many will be reconciled to God!

The servant realizes the honour he has received to be called a servant of God and that God should call him to reconcile people to Him! He is a light to the world as he tells the truth of God's desire for a close relationship with people.

#### **The servant's reliance on God is spoken of Is 50.4–9**

*4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.*

*5 The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.*

*6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.*

*7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.*

*8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.*

*9 Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.*

The servant relies on God to do what He has promised and as a result the attitude of the servant is different to that of the peoples around him!

The servant uses his tongue wisely. Each morning he wakes to the voice of God as he spends time listening to Him and learning from Him. He is submissive to the Will of God and accepted the rebukes and instruction God gives to him!

He was willing to suffer shame and hardship if it would help someone be reconciled to God or would further serve the purposes of God!

He relies on God to vindicate him and protect him in God's chosen timing and not his own. This may mean death before vindication and deliverance, but this does not concern him as the purposes of God are greater than his own purposes!

### **His steadfastness in God's purpose is declared Is 52.13 – 53.12**

*13 Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.*

*14 As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:*

*15 So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.*

*1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*

*2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*

*3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

*5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

*8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.*

*9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

*10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

*11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

*12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

God lets His servant be treated so badly that people will wonder at what happens and believe that God has cursed His servant and forsaken him. But the servant accepts this suffering and continues to do the will of God! God then uses the servant to save many and exalts him in His timing. This path of God's abasement and restoration is the only path that leads to God alone being able to lift up His servant as the servant is not in a position for himself to recover and others are not in a position to help him do so! Only God is able to lift His servant from the position He has let him fall too!

It is at this lowest point that great servants are made or lost, according to the dependence of the person on God, or his own abilities, for his restoration!

This 'dark night of the soul' must be gone through by all who would serve God and it is in this 'dark night' that many fall away in, just short of the final victory!

God will eventually exalt His servant because the servant has acted wisely and faithfully done all that God has asked him to do! Kings of the earth will listen in silence and amazement at what has happened to the servant and what the message of the servant is. They will be attracted by who he is and what he has to say rather than to his appearance.

The servant will mature before God but will be treated badly by men who will not understand what God is doing through him. He will have a burden for the lost and will suffer in his attempts to save them and be used to reconcile them to God!

He will not defend himself or claim any rights as the only rights he has will have been given him by God! He also considers the purposes of God of more importance than his own life and pleasure! But God takes pleasure in his suffering because of the attitude of the servant to Him and because of what the servant has achieved through his obedient death!

The servant will see the fruits of his labour in eternity and will be satisfied and God will exalt him for all to see!

Suffering is the path of God and the servant is called to suffer! We will be true servants of

Jesus when we listen to God as Jesus did and have as our priorities the purposes and will of God at the expense of our own personal pleasures and enjoyments!!

The true servant of God delights to do the will of God and rejoices that he is found worthy to do the work of God. He gladly embraces trials and tribulations for the privilege of being used by His Lord and King.

The will of his God is more important than his own will and like a true servant he places the will and desires of his master over his own.

He knows he is only able to do his master's will because his master gives him the authority to serve him and in his serving is the expression of the master found, as he represents his master's character by the way he serves.

He knows that because of the faithful way he serves his master, his master delights in him and will gladly and joyfully reward him.

Along with the concept of being set aside for the master's exclusive use and his choosing to serve the master, is the concept of holiness – the position of the servant's master in the realm of things.

God is Holy – set apart from all creation, pure and complete in himself!

We are sanctified – set apart for God. Holiness is not in our nature. We are only in a correct (righteous) relationship with a Holy God because of what Jesus has done and stay in this state because of the guidance and teaching of The Holy spirit.

The servant's status and relationship depend on what the master allows and depends at times on how the servant relates to his master. There are times the master will appear to ignore the servant's need but he still feeds and clothes the servant.

If the servant starts complaining about his own needs and rights, ahead of his master's requirements, the master will no longer be able to use him. Thus, the servant who wants his masters' rewards will put his master's needs – whether directed to by his master or not – ahead of his own.

Happy is the servant whose joy is to serve his master and please him because he loves his master more than himself – he will be rewarded. But those who insist on their own rights ahead of their masters' will be cast out into the darkness of the night!

*'And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your Servant'*

Jesus told us that leaders are servants and that the role of a minister of Jesus, and thus a servant, was to be desired if you would be 'great' in the Kingdom of The Father.

This servant attitude reflects that of God and by this you show you are His servant reflecting His nature.

God keeps us all alive (both the good and the wicked) and provides for their needs. He does

not force Himself on us as He has given us free will. He guides us and helps us make the right decisions but gives us the freedom to reject His advice. This is the second aspect of a servant. He is a teacher. The true teacher is also a servant.

Hence the role of a servant is defined

- Assist others to help themselves when they are unable to
- Teach others to help themselves when they are able to, and to
- Bring people to a knowledge of the truth of God and of His works
- Free people from the kingdom of Satan and its effects on them
- Bring Glory and Honour to God in all they do as they serve Him.

Thus was the nature of God's servant, Jesus - the greatest servant of all

If we are paid to do the work we are no longer a servant, serving out of love for the master and the person we are serving but are an employee

Christians say they are servants of God! The truth is anyone who obeys God is His servant.

A true servant is one who voluntarily obeys the instructions of another. Demons are God's servants as they must obey Him and His guidelines. The difference is that we do it out of love for what Jesus and The Father has done for us. They do it out of necessity

You would be a great servant for God? Obey Him in the little, daily things of life and as you prove your faithfulness, He will entrust you with more!

A Christian, in whom God's Love has matured, is really only happy in four circumstances:

- Freeing people from Satan's kingdom and the effect of it on people
- Expressing God's Love as they help others to grow and develop as a person
- Resting in the fellowship of God's Love and Grace.
- Fellowshipping with others of like heart and mind

Otherwise, they are frustrated as they want to minister but are not able to and want to spend time with God and are not able to.

If you love a person, you are willing to suffer for them (putting aside your personal and self-interests for their own good).

If you really love them you will die for them.

How much you really love Jesus and others will be shown by how much you are willing to suffer for them - but not out of a sense of duty or fear of hell, but out of love for them, His Name and His purposes.

Love serves because it can see the benefit for another and is willing to pay the cost for that to occur. By this is the Love of God shown in our lives that we serve others because it benefits them and not because of any selfish interests or desires being met.

True Love does not do for another what they should be doing for themselves but does for another what it cannot do for itself or needs help to be able to do if for themselves.

Most people want to do big, important things for Jesus. This is often so they will either feel they are doing Gods will adequately and so are acceptable by God or do so for purposes of self-esteem.

God is interested only in the relationship and the love that flows from it. Nothing you do can change this. All Jesus requires of us is to relate to Him in love and do well what He gives you - no matter how small or trivial it appears to be!

Love is faithful and is a good steward of what is trusted to it by God and does what is required without thought of self or gain and thinks only of serving others and from this obtains its pleasure. Reward is not important, only the joy and benefit it gives to another.

In the Kingdom of God, no work is trivial or unimportant if it is done for The King it is necessary in some way for The Kingdom to function properly. Where love is concerned there is no work too manual or trivial!

### **The picture of The Servant of God**

#### **God:**

Calls him

Authorises him

Anoints him with His Spirit

Empowers him

Guides him

Teaches him

Prepares him for service

Releases him for ministry in His Timing

Guides Him in ministry and

Exalts him in His Timing

#### **The servant:**

Realises the great privilege to be chosen as a servant of God

Seeks a deep relationship with God

Humbles himself to obey God in every area no matter what the cost

Trusts God's Will in every area of his life

The Purposes and Will of God are all that are important to him

He will endure anything to do these as He knows these as best for God's Kingdom, himself, and those he is ministering to

Believes God will reward him at the appropriate time

Is satisfied with what God gives him knowing that it is the best for God's purposes and also, best for them.

God prepare and provides for His servant. All that He asks of His servant is trusting obedience and faithfulness. The true servant of God lives out Mat 6:33 in all things and is a perfect example of what it means to be a citizen of The Kingdom of God.

### **What Price Obedience?**

It cost Jesus everything to come to earth, and His life to do The Will of God!

And He really was rewarded only after death, Except for the joy of seeing people freed from the kingdom of darkness and the things that this kingdom had placed on them!

And by this see His Father's Kingdom, expanded!

But then, the things of this earth held no appeal to Him and were really not important to Him!

His Father's Will and Kingdom was all that mattered to Him!

These are the attitudes you must develop if you would be like Jesus.

In conclusion I ask the second most important question you will ever be asked.

What price will you pay to serve Jesus?

### **God is a servant and our example**

*Mat 20:26 (KJV) But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;*

*Mat 20:27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:*

*Mat 20:26 (MKJV) However, it shall not be so among you. But whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant.*

*Mat 20:27 And whoever desires to be chief among you, let him be your servant;*

According this principle if you want to be chief amongst us you serve us.

So, God must be bound by this principle.

Is He?

The Father provides all we need without our having to ask Him.

The Lord Jesus protects this provision so we can use it.

The Holy Spirit guides and teaches us how to use this provision.

In all this, God serves us quietly. Asking only for our Love and for us to tell others of His Love and provision for them, now and after our death.

He is not a hypocrite, asking us to serve others without setting the example of how to do it!

Salvation is a love relationship and the expression of love is unselfish service to the person we love. This is how our relationship with God is shown by the way we serve Him.

Whether we serve Him wholeheartedly out of love and not because we want a reward for it.

According to how much you love God will be your service of Him!