

## THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT SERVANTS

(Luke 17:7-10)

A. We're going to begin a series of lessons on servanthood.

1. We have been called to be like his Master (Matt 10:24-25), & our Master was a servant (20:24-28).
2. In our text, Jesus described what it means to be a true servant & a servant of His.

[I think you will see in this lesson that our concept of a servant is a far cry from what Jesus was talking about.

But before we get to the text, let me begin by saying that there is nothing the Lord's church needs any more than true servants.

But to become a servant, two things are required of us.]

### I. REQUIRMENTS OF SERVANTHOOD

A. A desire to serve others.

1. A servant doesn't wake up in the morning thinking he will spend the day leisurely attending to his personal needs & pleasures.
2. A servant doesn't even have time to spend evaluating all the other servants. Why?
3. Because a servant is too preoccupied with his particular service to his Master.
4. Jesus, the Greatest Servant of all, was not only preoccupied with serving His Father; Jesus also had to be preoccupied with teaching servitude.
  - a. He knew that to expand to His kingdom His subjects would have to know how to serve.
  - b. And the best way to teach servitude is to demonstrate it by example.

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**John 13:12-17** – So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, & sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher & Lord, & you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord & Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 ***For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*** 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

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5. Paul identified himself in 5 of his 9 epistles as a “bondservant” of God & of the L.J.C.
  - a. A bondservant is a slave, & a slave cannot think of his own safety & well-being.
  - b. A slave has to press on with the greatest determination to finish His Master’s task.
  - c. Paul would have never accomplished what he did, if he had viewed himself in any other way.

[What the church has always needed more than anything else is servants who want to serve others.

The second thing required in being a servant is humility.]

B. A desire to be humble.

1. To have a low opinion of ourselves in relation to others (**Phil 2:3**).
2. To be submissive to our brethren, knowing that God resists the proud (**Jas 4:6, 10; 1 Pet 5:5-6**).
3. To be longsuffering & forgiving (**Col 3:12-13**).
4. To be subject to authorities, to not speak evil of someone, to be peaceable & gentle (**Ti 3:1-2**).
5. It does NOT mean to be self deprecating, or to be overly critical of ourselves.
6. To be humble means that we are not proud, haughty, arrogant or overly assertive.

7. How do we add humbleness to our character?

- a. Acknowledge the power & authority of our Master Jesus Christ over us.
- b. Appreciate the value & potential of each of His servants.
- c. See yourself as He, who knows all, sees you, with your faults & imperfections.

8. Once we learn to be humble, then we can begin to be servants of the Lord.

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**Gal 5:13-15** – *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty*; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but *through love serve one another*. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** 15 But if you bite & devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

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- a. Our liberty in Christ is not to be used to serve the flesh, but to serve one another

b. It takes a humble person to serve another & to love another as yourself.

[It taken to heart, this series will serve to unify us as we come to realize that together we are servants of God.

If each of us will humbly accept our service to each other, then God will work through us to His glory.

With that in mind we come to our text where Jesus asks three questions about servants.]

## II. THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT SERVANTS

### A. Question One Luke 17 Verse 7.

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And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once & sit down to eat’?

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- 1. This question probably resulted in a roar of laughter, but we may not see the humor in it. Why?

- a. Our image of a servant is of someone who wears nice clothing & works in a beautiful home; he may even be in a union that stipulates his wages & paid leave.

2. But in Jesus' day, a servant was simply a slave; someone purchased & owned by another to carry out his demands.

- a. A servant's ear was pierced & a ring put in it so that everyone would know that he was the property of another (Psa 40:6).
- b. A servant wasn't paid for his work; he wasn't usually even thanked for his effort.
- c. He didn't have any rights under the law; he wasn't even under the protection of law.
- d. He was the first one up in the morning & the last one to bed at night; he only did what he was told to do!

[Servanthood means a total resignation of the will to the will of His Master.

Now do you still want to be a servant of the Lord Jesus?]

## B. Question Two Luke 17 Verse 8.

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But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, & gird yourself & serve me till I have eaten & drunk, & afterward you will eat & drink'?

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1. The response to this question was probably a hearty "Amen! That's right! That's the way in should be!"
  - a. Everyone knew that a servants needs didn't come before his master's needs.
2. In Jesus day, the sole responsibility of a servant was to satisfy his master first.

- a. These people had never considered a servant with such audacity that he would come in from the field & set a table for himself.
- b. Not a single one of them would have tolerated such an arrogant, presumptuous servant.
- c. When a servant was working in the field he was supposed to be thinking about what he was going to prepare for his master's supper.

[Servanthood means putting the Master's needs first.

Now do you still want to be a servant of the Lord Jesus?]

### C. Question Three Luke 17 Verse 9.

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Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.

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- 1. Well, these people had never heard three such ridiculous questions regarding a servant.
  - a. Of course they knew that a master doesn't thank his servant for his work.
- 2. In Jesus' day, a servant's work was his duty; he was not working for a reward or a compliment.
  - a. If a master had a servant who acted like he was doing his master a favor, that servant would be severely reprimanded for his arrogance.

[Servanthood means total attention to duty with no expectation of earthly reward or praise.

Now do you still want to be a servant of the Lord Jesus?]

CLOSING

A. **Do you see** what Jesus has done in this lesson on servant hood?

1. First, He is NOT implying that God does not care about the welfare of His servants, or that He is not appreciative of what they do.
2. What Jesus had done was to get the people to agree with Him in a matter that was obvious to everyone.
  - a. **Servants must** *resign their will to the will of the Master.*
  - b. **Servants must** *put their Master's needs ahead of their own needs.*
  - c. **Servants must** *not expect praise for doing their duty.*
3. Then He turned the tables on them.

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**Luke 17:10** – So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'

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- a. Is servanthood what they wanted?
- b. Is servanthood what we want?
- c. When we come to understand the meaning of the word "servant" as Jesus used it, then we can begin to understand why He warned everyone to "count the cost" before making the decision to become His servant ([Lk 14:25-33](#)).