

“Serving Is Nice But Not Necessary” Don’t Buy The Lie – Part 9

Luke 17:7-10

March 3, 2013

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

“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 and sit down to eat”? But will he not rather say to him, “Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink”? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 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.”” Luke 17:7-10 (NKJV)

❖ 3 Principles About Serving God:

1. WE MUST NOT EXPECT GOD TO SERVE US BEFORE WE HAVE SERVED HIM.

“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 and sit down to eat”? But will he not rather say to him, “Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink”?” Luke 17:7-8 (NKJV)

- **We expect protection for our family.**
- **We expect provision for our financial needs.**
- **We expect health for our bodies.**
- **We expect guidance for our future.**
- **We expect salvation for our loved ones.**

2. WE MUST NOT EXPECT ANY IMMEDIATE RETURN FOR OUR SERVICE.

“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 and sit down to eat”? But will he not rather say to him, “Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink”?” Luke 17:7-8 (NKJV)

❖ Excuses People Give To Quit Serving:

- **I Didn’t Feel Appreciated.**
- **I Didn’t Get The Results I Wanted.**

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.” 1 Corinthians 3:6 (NKJV)

- **I Didn’t Get The Feeling I Wanted.**

3. WE MUST SEE SERVICE AS OUR OBLIGATION TO JESUS CHRIST.

“Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 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.””
Luke 17:9-10 (NKJV)

❖ Jesus, The Greatest Servant Ever, Taught Us To Serve God ...

- **Even when my schedule is full.**

"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father..." John 13:1a (NKJV)

- **Even when I want to quit.**

"...having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." John 13:1b (NKJV)

- **Even when my heart is breaking.**

"And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him..." John 13:2 (NKJV)

"Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me." Psalm 41:9 (NLT)

- **Even when there's nothing left to say.**

"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded." John 13:3-5 (NKJV)

'So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 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.'" John 13:12-16 (NKJV)