

Home Bible Study Series

SERVING

For
Life & Eternity

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2011

Lesson One

"The Great Vision of Serving"

Vision—"The willingness to dare to look into the future! We do it by our imagination—what we can envision! We do it by careful planning! We do it by dreaming of the possibilities and sometimes the impossibilities! God illustrates vision by what He has done. He held out a vision for Abraham—**"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed..."** (Gen. 22:18). Nineteen hundred years later, that vision became a reality! (Gal. 3:15-19). Jesus was that promised seed of Abraham that would bless all nations!

But God has also held out a great vision before us that we need to adopt as our own. His vision was of the Church that began as a small mustard seed, but grew into a large kingdom among men (Matt. 13:31-32). The marching orders that Jesus gave to the twelve disciples show us this great vision—**"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."** (Mk. 16:15). They were to begin their preaching in Jerusalem, then in Judea, and Samaria; and then to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8). According to inspiration, they fulfilled or accomplished God's vision of the spread of the church (Col. 1:23). What a vision God gave to the Apostles; and they in turn have given to us! (2 Tim. 2:2).

Vision of what we can Become!

In addition, God has given us another great vision. He has given us the vision of what we can become as a people of God.

- Matt. 5:48 _____
- Col. 1:28 _____
- Col. 2:6-7 _____
- Gal. 5:22-23 _____
- 2 Pet. 1:5-9 _____

As well—many other passages could be given! The early Christians saw the great vision placed before them and adopted it and fulfilled it—even to the giving up of their lives for Jesus (Rev. 2:10). We need to catch the same vision and make it our vision. Then, we need to put forth the effort to see it become a reality. We need to look back and see how it has changed our lives in comparison to what it would have been otherwise. Where would we be now if we had not seen and heard of God's vision for us?

Vision of Great Service

We need to catch the vision of great service to God and go forth as an army of soldiers in His service. Those who would be great in His service are those who have caught sight of the vision of greatness! (Matt. 20:20-28). On the night of His betrayal, Jesus illustrated this great vision of who is greatest in the kingdom by washing His disciples feet (John 13:12-17). Jesus has passed on great visions for us to follow after—will we catch the vision of the Great Commission, or the vision of what we can become as children of God, or the vision of greatness as a servant of Jesus Christ?

Motivation to greatness of Vision!

Our dreams and our visions can become strong motivations for us to serve in the Kingdom of God! No one moves unless motivated. We need to let God's Word, His Promises, and His Blessings be great motivations for us to carry out God's vision for us. Because of the greatness of the visions God has given, we need to be thoroughly taught and fully equipped to do the work that is required. We have been given grave responsibilities that deal with not only our own soul, but the souls of mankind as well. We need all the help we can get!

2 Tim. 2:2 _____
Eph. 4:11-16 _____
2 Tim. 2:15 _____
1 Pet. 3:15 _____
2 Tim. 2:20-21 _____

Decision making!

We do or become what we decide—no one makes us do anything! We can allow people to influence us for good or bad. But, we ultimately make our choice and live with it. In the words of Joshua: **"...choose for yourselves today whom you will serve..."** (Joshua 24:15). It is not only important that we choose, but that we choose the right things! Let's make our choice to serve the God of Heaven with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength!

Concluding Thoughts

Visions can become mere dreams or they can become dreams put into action! Let's not only catch the great visions of the Lord—but let's put

those dreams into reality (into action). Let's get our focus correct and put forth the effort it takes to get the job done! Let's be united in our efforts, as well as organized in our efforts to carry out the great visions that God has for us.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some visions God wants us to see?

2. Why is Motivation so important to carrying out God's visions?

3. What part does Decision making have with vision?

Lesson Two

"The Necessity of Servanthood"

A group of men in a small congregation met together one night to deal seriously with why they were not growing. They tried hard to be open & honest with their thoughts. Questions were asked:

- 1—"What is holding us back?"
- 2—"Why aren't we winning souls?"
- 3—"Why aren't we seeing growth?"

Some heart-searching answers came forth:

- 1—"We are lazy."
- 2—"We don't care, not really, if the lost go to hell."
- 3—"I think it is fear....we are scared to try."

If such a meeting was held here by the men, what kind of answers would we give? Would we conclude that we need a sense of Servanthood?

We must recognize that to become a Christian means we become a SERVANT of the Most High God!_This was the emphasis in the early church:

1. Phil. 1:1—"Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ..."
2. Jas. 1:1—"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ."
3. 2 Pet. 1:1—"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ."
4. Jude 1—"Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ..."
5. Rom. 6:16-18

No one coerced us or made us or even threatened us! We became servants of our own free will. We willingly made the decision to:

- 1) "**Die to sin**" (Rom. 6:1-2)
- 2) "**Die to self**" (Matt. 16:24)

We simply gave up our will to do the will of God!

As a servant of God

I must willingly give myself up to be trained to be a mature servant of God, as well as an effective servant of God (Eph. 4:11-12). Evangelists, Pastors (elders), and teachers are still permanent servants of the church that are to be trained to serve others. But these servants are in turn to train others!

2 Tim. 2:2—“And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

Matt. 28:19—“...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

Eph. 4:12—“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of serving, for the building up of the body of Christ.”

Every one of us needs to be Servants of the Most High God—but trained Servants, effective Servants, and faithful Servants!

Servanthood is not an optional thing for the Christian! We can't be a faithful Christian without becoming a servant of Jesus Christ. But neither is being trained as a servant optional! We need to become the best servants we can be to God's glory.

SERVANTHOOD BEGINS WITH A PROPER SPIRIT!

1. It is a turning from wrong centers to the right center!

1. Accumulating money or possessions, are not the right center for our lives.
2. Loving the world is not.
3. Loving family more than God is not.
4. Christ is the right center...He is now Lord & Master!
5. What is central to my life, I become a servant unto Him!
6. Matt. 6:21—“**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also....You cannot serve two masters.**” (v. 24)
7. Matt. 6:33—“**But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness....**”

2. It involves a true heart of submission!

1. Submission is the foundation of Servanthood.
2. Our hearts need to be set on God to be a true servant.
3. True obedience is submission in all things....not just easy things!

3. But it is not only submission to God, but to others as well!

1. Eph. 5:21—“**Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of the God.**”

2. 1 Pet. 5:5—***“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the older. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility.”***

4. Servanthood is a turning from self to others!

1. The theme of the world...Take care of #1.
2. The theme of Christ’s teachings....Lose yourself & serve others!
3. Matt. 20:26-27—***“...but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your servant; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your minister.”***
4. Phil. 2:3-4—***“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”***

Serving deals with an attitude, an outlook. If you think you are better than others...then, they should serve you. But if you willingly serve them.....in their eyes you have lowered yourself below them! This is where our problem arises—to be willing to think of ourselves as servants of others. We can’t do it until we deal with two problems:

1. Must deal with vainglory, conceit, too high opinion of self.
2. Selfishness...mine, mine, mine...me, me, me.

It is important to notice:

1. Servant attitudes & actions never split or divide churches.
2. They mend divisions, create unity & harmony.

JESUS HAS SHOWN US HOW TO BE SERVANTS.

1. Matt. 20:28—***“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”***

2. Phil. 2:5-8. Jesus came to serve mankind, and did it well! That servitude brought about a lowliness & humbleness in Jesus’ life. His Servanthood even led to death itself. But Jesus was a true Servant, faithful in all things.

3. Heb. 3:2—***“Jesus Christ.....was faithful to him that appointed him....”***

Jesus’ Servanthood did not take away from who he was! He knew who he was....The Son of God! And so it is with us—Servanthood does not take away from who we are! We know who we are...Sons of the Most High God! And Jesus’ life of service is our example. (1 Pet. 2:21)

Concluding Thoughts

We are challenged to see:

- a) That we made a choice to become servants of God;
- b) That we need to learn from Jesus how to be good & faithful servants;
- b) That our lives will be devoted to being a servant.

Someone has said:

“The mission of the church is not Evangelism, Edification, and Benevolence....but the mission of the church is Servanthood. But true servants will evangelize the lost, strive to build up saints of God, and will reach out to help those about them in need.”

Peak Performance as a Christian requires a servant Spirit.....DO WE HAVE IT?

Questions for Discussion

1. What makes us a Servant of the Most High God?

2. Why is Training necessary for Servants?

3. Why does serving deal with an attitude?

Lesson Three**"Areas of Serving"**

A great challenge to leadership in the church is to get God's people involved in the work that He has given to His people to accomplish that promotes the church and the saving of the lost. There are many areas in which we can be involved that God tells us about in His Word. While individual Christians can find things to do that are good, there are also areas of serving that will need coordination and mutual efforts together. The purpose of this lesson is to find those areas from Scripture, and then to encourage leaders to key in on, to train, and to motivate members to function collectively in an effective way.

Both the Old and New Testaments uses the terms (ministry or service) and its equivalents. The Old talks about clothes or garments to wear that is befitting the ministry in which they are involved, as well as the activity in which they will be engaged (Exodus 31:10; 2 Chronicles 5:14). The New uses this term to identify special responsibilities, special work, or service render to God or man (Acts 20:24; 21:19; Romans 12:7; 2 Corinthians 8:4). It is often used to denote a special work to which a person has been appointed (2 Corinthians 4:1; 5:18; Colossians 4:17; 1 Timothy 1:12). Paul told Titus to see that elders were appointed to serve the congregations that had been established on the isle of Crete (Titus 1:5). The apostles appointed the seven men chosen by the church in Jerusalem to a special area of service (Acts 6:1-7).

According to the words of Jesus, all of the Redeemed of God should be involved in finding ways to serve others—whether working collectively or individually (Matthew 20:25-28; 23:11). While the term "shepherd" would indicate one that is concerned for the welfare of God's people, the term "overseer" would seem to indicate one who keeps things going in the right direction. Such terms would indicate that such men would be responsible for encouraging the involvement of the congregation in various areas of ministry or serving.

NEW TESTAMENT EMPHASIS

In the reading 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, along with other New Testament Scriptures, it is quite obvious that there are many areas of service in which individual Christians can be involved, as well as many areas

where people need to be appointed to be responsible for certain ministries. Let's look at some of these briefly:

- 1 Timothy 3:1-13—Men are appointed to serve as elders and deacons. (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Ephesians 4:11; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5)
- 1 Timothy 3:11—Women or wives of elders & deacons would be a help to their husbands.
- 1 Timothy 5:9-10—Older widows may have been appointed to a special work with women.
- 2 Timothy 2:2—Pass on Truth to others to be teachers (Ephesians 4:11; Titus 2:4)
- Romans 16:1-2—Appointed to a special work by the church.

GENERAL EMPHASIS

- 1 Timothy 2:8—Men to lead prayers in congregation.
- 1 Timothy 5:3—Care for needy widows (James 1:27).
- 1 Timothy 5:10-14—Good works listed for women in particular (1 Timothy 2:10):
 - a) Bring up children
 - b) Lodge strangers
 - c) Wash saints feet
 - d) Relieve afflicted
 - e) Diligently follow every good work
 - f) Manage the house
- 1 Timothy 6:2—Employees (servants) serve Employers (masters). (Titus 2:9)
- 1 Timothy 6:18—Rich to be willing to give and share.
- 2 Timothy 1:16-18—Special ministry to preachers. (2 Timothy 4:11)
- Titus 2:14—To be zealous of good works and maintain them. (Titus 3:8, 14)
- Matthew 25:35-36—Compassion towards the needy. (Galatians 6:2, 10)
 - a) Hungry and thirsty
 - b) Strangers to lodge
 - c) Clothe the naked
 - d) Visit sick
 - e) Visit in prison
- Acts 4:44-45—Concern for brethren in need. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 1 John 3:17)

- Galatians 6:6—Support teachers of the word.
- Galatians 6:10—Do good to all men.

SPECIAL AREAS GIVEN IN ROMANS 12:4-8

- Romans 12:6—Prophecy (Preaching—Public Proclamation of gospel)
- Romans 12:7—Teaching
- Romans 12:8—Exhorters
- Romans 12:8—Ability to give in a special way
- Romans 12:8—Leaders (rulers)—with diligence
- Romans 12:8—Show mercy or compassion with cheerfulness.

The above areas of ministry or service are not all that could be found in Scripture, but these will illustrate how many avenues of service we can be engaged in to be servants of the Most High God.

VALUE OF ORGANIZING AREAS OF SERVICE

Early in the book of Acts we are given indications of efforts to organize areas of work to be done (Acts 6:1-7; 11:22, 25; 13:1-2; 15:2; 14:23, etc.). As a general rule people look to leadership for vision, plans, and organizing the church to function effectively. May we suggest some possible advantages of doing this:

- 1—You can generally get more people involved in good, Scriptural activities that have a Spiritual end result (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- 2—People can be happier in areas where they are comfortable and capable (Philippians 2:14-15).
- 3—More can be accomplished (Titus 3:8).
- 4—Shows good oversight (Acts 20:28).
- 5—Each can have a sense of accomplishment (2 Timothy 2:20-21).
- 6—God can be glorified by all (Matthew 5:13-16).

TERMS WE USE

Special terms have been used by leaders to identify the major headings for areas of work in the church as follows:

1. Benevolence
2. Building(s) and Grounds
3. Edification (Bible Classes & Worship assemblies)
4. Evangelism (Outreach in the Community)
5. Missions (Outreach in other areas)

6. Fellowship & Youth Activities
7. Communication
8. Administration

By using the elders, deacons, teachers, and preacher(s) as leaders in each of the above areas, they should be able to involve every individual in one or more areas of work in the church.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The size of the congregation will determine how extensive a ministry program will be. Also, the abilities and interest of members will be a big factor in determining just how many ministries can be engaged in effectively. In some instances, it may be better to have fewer areas of interest at first and do them well, rather than trying to do a lot and not do any of them well.

Let's be a people whose lives are filled with good works and be determined to maintain them well (Titus 3:8, 14). Let's plan, organize, and involve every member in an effort to accomplish the most good that we possibly can do.

Questions for Discussion

- 1. How would you define what a "ministry" is?**

- 2. Is it wrong to appoint certain people to serve in certain jobs?**

- 3. What is the value of organizing our efforts to serve others?**

- 4. What are the eight areas in which God's people can serve?**

Lesson Four

"Serving in Benevolence"

To be a benevolent person is to simply do good for other people. The good we do is usually to help fill a need physically. We have both general and specific admonitions to do this. It is rather interesting to notice that God wants His people to be "hospitable." (Tit. 1:8; 1 Tim. 3:2; Rom. 12:13; 1 Pet. 4:9; Heb. 13:2). But He is also concerned for the "poor." (Gal. 2:10). God even gives specific instructions on those to be helped:

1. The fatherless and widows. Jas. 1:27
2. Destitute older widows. 1 Tim. 5:3-16
3. Needy Saints. Rom. 12:13; Gal. 6:2; Jas. 2:14-17; 1 Jn. 3:17-18.
4. All men—especially those of the household of faith. Gal. 6:10.

Teachings of Christ in the Gospels

It is important that we look closely at the teachings of Christ in the Gospels.

1. Sermon on the Mount:

- ◇ Give to him that ask; do not turn away the borrower. Matt. 5:42.
- ◇ Do good to your enemies. Matt. 5:43-46; Lk. 6:35.
- ◇ Give and it shall be given to you. Lk. 6:30, 38.
- ◇ How to do your alms-giving. Matt. 6:3-4.

2. Freely you have received, freely give. Matt. 10:8.**3. Give a cup of water to a little one. Matt. 10:42; Mk. 9:41****4. Jesus' benevolent spirit. Matt. 14:16; 15:32****5. Caring for father and mother. Matt. 15:1-9****6. Need for compassion towards the less fortunate. Matt. 18:23-35****7. Teachings to the rich:**

- ◇ Rich young ruler. Matt. 19:21
- ◇ Rich will find it hard to enter the kingdom. Matt. 19:23-26
- ◇ The Rich Fool. Lk. 12:16-21
- ◇ The Unjust Steward. Lk. 16:1-12
- ◇ The Rich Man and Lazarus. Lk. 16:19-31

8. The Judgment scene. Matt. 25:31-46**9. The Story of the Good Samaritan. Lk. 10:30-37****10. Sell what you have and give alms. Lk. 12:33****11. Make feast for the poor, maimed, lame, and blind. Lk. 14:12-14**

How can we Meet these Needs?

1. **Individually.** A one on one situation of those we contact or know personally. They have needs that we can meet personally.
2. **Collectively as the Church.** Money can be taken out of the Church Treasury. When the need is too large for an individual, we turn to the Church collectively to help.
3. **Collectively as individuals.** (Money not taken out of Church Treasury). We can help those activities that not only help individuals, but helps to spread the Gospel over the world. Such activities as: Christian Camps, Christian Colleges, Orphan Homes or old Folks Homes. There are many other activities operated by our brethren in the realm of benevolence that we can help.
 - ◇ Organize a food and clothes closet.
 - ◇ Organize to care for or feed in our homes.
 - ◇ Sewing together for those in need.
 - ◇ Visitation program for widows, shut-ins, and see after special needs.
 - ◇ Foster Home care—provide a home for individuals in need.
 - ◇ Orphan children care—special homes operated by our brethren.

Special Benevolence mentioned in Scripture.

1. **Special Benevolence in the Jerusalem Church.**
 - ◇ Acts 2:44-45; 4:32; 4:34-37; 5:1-11
 - ◇ Acts 6:1-4
2. **Special collections for the poor at Jerusalem.**
 - ◇ Antioch's efforts. Acts 11:27-30
 - ◇ Churches of Galatia, Achaia, and Macedonia:
 1. How the collection was to be raised by the churches. 1 Cor. 16:1-3
 2. Emphasis upon attitude in giving. 2 Cor. 8-9
 3. Purpose—our abundance may be a supply for their want. 2 Cor. 8:14
 4. Need to be above board with handling of funds. 2 Cor. 8:21
 5. Collection was primarily for the poor saints in Jerusalem—but others as well. 2 Cor. 9:13
 6. Delivered by Paul and Company. Rom. 15:25-26

Concluding Thoughts

1. Warnings concerning helping the poor:

- ◇ They are not to be crush or taken advantage of. Jas. 5:4
- ◇ They are not to be defrauded. 1 Thess. 4:6
- ◇ Be willing to be taken advantage of. 1 Cor. 6:7

2. Special Principles to be considered:

- ◇ Each man is to bear his own burden. Gal. 6:4-5
- ◇ Each is to work with his own hands. 1 Thess. 4:11-12; Eph. 4:28
- ◇ If a person won't work, then he is not to eat. 2 Thess. 3:8-12
- ◇ Give not that which is holy to dogs. Matt. 7:6
- ◇ We will have the poor with us always. Matt. 26:6-13; Mk. 14:7-8
- ◇ Our giving is to be done out of love. 1 Cor. 13:1-3

It should be obvious from the above that God wants His people involved in good works. (Tit. 2:14; 3:8, 14). We must willingly be concerned about others. We should be looking and seeking whom we may help. We must rid ourselves of covetousness and be known as generous people or people of mercy!

Questions for Discussion

- 1. How do we determine who is a needy saint?**

- 2. What impression do you get from the special teachings of Jesus in the Gospels?**

- 3. Why is it hard for rich people to go to Heaven?**

- 4. What special warnings are given concerning the poor?**

- 5. How can we be known as a people of compassion and mercy?**

Lesson Five

"Serving in Worship"

There is a saying in the philosophies of men....."We tend to become like the one we worship." This is easily illustrated:

- a) Hero worship shows this.
 - 1—Young boy or girl sees someone they like.
 - 2—They begin to copy after their actions.
 - 3—They tend to become like them.
- b) Elvis Presley's worshippers illustrate this.
 - 1—Dress like him
 - 2—Act like him
 - 3—Sing like him
 - 4—Drive car like him.....etc.

The Christian who truly worships the Living God of Heaven: (1) Should become more and more like him; (2) Think like Him; (3) Act like Him; (4) Matt. 5:48. The problem we have to deal with is:

- a) To truly worship God from the heart.
- b) Empty & heartless worship will not bring us closer to God.
- c) Nor will such make us more like God.
- d) When our hearts are not in our activities....
 - 1—We really do not worship...
 - 2—Even though we go through the formality of such.
- e) Each need to contribute our part to make worship meaningful.

5. Suggest four principles that should help us do this!

"FOUR PRINCIPLES CONCERNING WORSHIP"
(Isa. 1:10-17)

1. PREPARE YOURSELF FOR WORSHIP.

A. *Worship requires thought & effort.*

- 1) The heart cannot express what it does not contain.
- 2) Thus, the heart needs to be filled with:
KNOWLEDGE, GRATITUDE, HUMILITY, PRAISE,
ETC.
- 3) Our hearts need to be hungry in order to be filled.
 - a) Matt. 5:6
 - b) Acts 13:52---"***And the disciples were filled with joy***"

- c) Eph. 3:19---**“And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.”**
 - d) Eph. 5:18---**“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the spirit.”**
- 4) The heart can only express what is in it!!

B. The heart & the mind need to be alert to worship!

- 1) If it is groggy, sleepy or disinterested....hard to worship from the heart.
- 2) Set priorities ahead & plan to be alert to truly worship.
- 3) Plan on Saturday PM to get rest needed to be alert.
- 4) Be prepared in mind & body to express your worship to God.

2. BE PRESENT TO WORSHIP.

A. We can't worship with the saints if we are not present!

- 1) Public worship is a joint effort by many individuals.
- 2) It is a time of assembly designed by God.
- 3) To do this requires my presence!
- 4) Heb. 10:24-25
- 5) Forsaking the worship assembly is admitting our lack of desire to worship together!
- 6) We are encouraged:
 - a) To put God first in our lives. Matt. 6:33
 - b) We are encouraged to “sanctify the Lord God in our hearts” (1 Pet. 3:15)
 - c) To set him apart.....He is first in my life.
 - d) He is special.
- 7) If we do so....the desire will be there to worship.

B. God wants us to be present each & every Lord's Day.

- 1) 1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7
- 2) Our translators did not put the word “every” in either passage.
- 3) But just about every other place in the N.T. the word is translated “every” or “each”.
- 4) Passages should read...“Every first day of the week”.

3. PARTICIPATE

A. *Worship is an active word!*

- 1) It requires activity of the heart, mind, & body.
- 2) To worship, one must do something!
- 3) It is a choice between being a spectator or a participant!
 - a) It is obvious that God is the AUDIENCE.
 - b) We are the participants!
- 4) It is also obvious that the spectator puts forth no energy to worship.
- 5) Matt. 4:10---"***You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.***"
- 6) John 4:24---"***God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.***"

B. *No one can worship for you.*

- 1) You and you alone can worship God for yourself.
- 2) Rom. 12:1---"***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***"
- 3) Jas. 4:8---"***Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.***"
- 4) Others can worship around me, but not **for** me!!
- 5) So, I must participate, worship God fervently, sincerely.
 - a) I must keep my heart pure.
 - b) I must humble my heart before God.
 - c) I must offer my heart's devotion to God.
- 6) We need to ask ourselves the question....."***Why have I come? Have I come to worship or watch?***"

4. PRACTICE!

A. *If we do not put into practice the things we learn, our worship is vain!*

- 1) Isa. 1:13-17
- 2) God rejected their sacrifices because of their ungodly lives.
- 3) Matt. 15:7-9

- 4) Matt. 23:13-15
- 5) Hypocrites may make a pretense at worship.
- 6) But their lives invalidate any such effort.

B. Our worship should make a difference in our lives!

- 1) Cause us to bridle our tongue. Jas. 1:26
- 2) To be compassionate to the helpless & widows. Jas. 1:27
- 3) To be unspotted from the world. Jas. 1:27
- 4) To show our faith by our works. Jas. 2:18
- 5) Worship should help prepare us for living godly lives!
- 6) Because we are becoming like the one we Worship!!

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Freedom to worship unmolested is a great blessing in our NATION.....OR IS IT? If we take such for granted.....we may lose it. If we treat such as a privilege lightly....we may not worship sincerely. Let's show our appreciation to God for this and all other great blessings that come from His hand.....BY OFFERING THE KIND OF WORSHIP HE WANTS FROM US.

- a) ***"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."***
- b) ***"Cleanse your hands, you sinners.....humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord...."***
- c) ***"God gives grace to the humble."***

Questions for Discussion

- 1. Why do people tend to become like who they worship?**
- 2. What kind of special preparation needs to be made for worship?**
- 3. Why is it so important that we be present for worship together?**
- 4. Why should all Christians participate in the worship services?**
- 5. What will make our worship of non-effect?**

Lesson Six

"Serving in Evangelism"

Communicating the mind of God to man has been one of the greatest needs and challenges to man. God inspired "prophets" under the Old Testament system to speak for him to the people. The New Testament is to be proclaimed to all nations of men. Jesus' marching orders to His people is....."**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**" (Mk. 16:15). This mission was carried out in the first century according to the inspired Apostle Paul (Col. 1:23). However, this commission has to be fulfilled in every generation of man—or men will depart from God.

Preparation for the coming of the Kingdom was accomplished by preaching! John and Jesus both came preaching:

1. The Gospel of the Kingdom. (Mt. 90:35).
2. Deliverance of the captives. (Lk. 4:18)
3. The acceptable year of the Lord. (Lk. 4:19)
4. The baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (Mk. 1:4)
5. Repentance. (Mt. 4:17)

All Judea and Galilee, part of Samaria, and Perea had opportunity to hear preaching by these two. Then, the chosen twelve were sent out to preach only to the Jews in every city (Mt. 10:5-6).

When the new Kingdom of Heaven was set up, it was made known and spread among men by preaching. At first, the primary proclaimers were the Apostles, Prophets, and Evangelists (Eph. 4:11-12). They were given the message that they were to proclaim:

1. Jesus, as the Christ (the anointed one to come). (Acts 5:42)
2. Jesus, as Lord of Heaven and earth. (Acts 11:20).
3. Jesus Christ crucified. (1 Cor. 1:23).
4. The Word of the Lord (Acts 8:4; 15:35).
5. The Word of Faith. (Rom. 10:8; Gal. 1:23).
6. The Gospel. (1 Cor. 15:1).
7. The Kingdom of God and the things pertaining to it. (Acts 8:12).
8. The Resurrection from the dead. (Acts 4:2).
9. The forgiveness of sins. (Acts 13:38).
10. Peace by Jesus Christ. (Acts 10:36; Eph. 2:17).
11. To turn from vanities to the Living God. (Acts 14:15)..

This preaching was to be done with:

1. Warning. (Col. 1:28).
2. Urgency. (2 Tim. 4:2).
3. No perversions. (Gal. 1:6-8).
4. Fear and trembling. (1 Cor. 2:1-5).
5. Not to please men, but God. (1 Thess. 2:4).
6. In love. (Eph. 4:15).

Evangelism in the First Century

The preaching of the early Christians was to begin in Jerusalem, then go into Judea, then Samaria, and then to all mankind (Acts 1:8). When one reads the book of Acts, it is obvious that they carried out their mission correctly.

1. Jerusalem. (Acts 2-7; 5:28).
2. They went everywhere preaching the Word. (Acts 8:4).
 - ◇ Samaria. (Acts 8:5-40).
 - ◇ Judea. (Acts 10:11-18).
 - ◇ Phenice, Cyprus, Antioch. (Acts 11:19-30).
3. Cyprus, Asia Minor (Galatia) (Acts 13-14).
4. Asia Minor (Galatia), Macedonia, Achaia. (16-18:22)
5. Asia Minor (Ephesus), Macedonia, Achaia. (Acts 18:23-21:14).
6. Rome. (Roman Letter).
7. Spain. Paul's intention. (Rom. 15:24).
8. Crete. Titus Letter.
9. Dalmatia. (2 Tim. 4:10).
10. Ethiopia. (Acts 8).
11. All provinces of Asia Minor. (1 Pet. 1:1). (Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia).
12. Babylon. (1 Pet. 5:13).

By the 4th Century, it is estimated that 10% of the Roman Empire were Christian (350,000,000).

How should we evangelize today? Possibly, we should approach our work like they did:

1. Locally, first and continually.
2. County
3. State
4. Adjoining States.
5. Throughout the world.

Practical Means of Evangelism

Evangelism should be done by both public means and private or personal means. Our public means (in most instances) will require a cooperative effort by the whole church. Following is a **listing** of some things that can be done publicly:

1. Ads in Newspapers, Radio, TV, Billboards, Yellow pages.
2. Mass mail-out of literature.
3. Offering of free study material.
4. Meetings, Campaigns.
5. Bible classes and public services.
6. Vacation Bible School.
7. Special Lectureship programs.
8. Helping the needy and offering to study with them.
9. etc.

However, it is important that every Christian become involved privately or personally. Following are some of the ways we can become directly involved in reaching out to people:

1. Offering a good tract to another person.
2. Door-to-door canvassing for contacts.
3. Conduct or be a part of a Home Bible Study.
4. Inviting people to services or classes that would be valuable to them.
5. etc.

Preparing and Sending out Preachers

There is a constant need for preachers that can work with congregations full-time not only to help teach the lost, but as well to help strengthen the new members. The early church sent men out to preach to the Lost. Churches were established, strengthened, and later elders were appointed. Then, these churches, in turn, can help to establish other churches.

Our primary mission is to get the Message before the masses of people. They need to have the opportunity to hear and to obey the gospel. (Rom. 6:16-18).

How can I help reach the lost?

It should be apparent that it is going to take all of us to be involved in evangelizing the people around us. It is also obvious that not everyone can get up before people and preach the Gospel Message effectively to the lost. But that doesn't mean we cannot help to reach the lost. There are many things that can be done even by new members in reaching out to others. With some insight and help, we can all be involved in serving in this area. There is no greater joy than being a part of reaching lost souls. Jesus made it clear that heaven rejoices over sinners that come to repentance. (Lk. 15:7). Let's try to multiply our joy by doing all we can to reach people with the Gospel.

Questions for Discussion

- 1. Who should strive to reach the lost?**
- 2. Why is it important to reach the lost?**
- 3. What are some things you personally can do to reach the lost?**
- 4. Why is Preaching important?**
- 5. Why is reaching the lost looked upon as a service?**

Lesson Seven**"Serving as a Teacher"**

God's people were rebuked by the writer of the Hebrew Letter because they were not teaching. They had been Christians for quite some time and God expected them to be out teaching others the message of God. (Heb. 5:11-14). If we understand that God wants us to be teachers of His Word and we have had the time to learn; then, we should be busy in serving God and man as a teacher of His Word. Teaching has to involve gaining knowledge, training, encouragement, exhortation, rebuking, and admonition. Following are some of the ways we can be used to teach others:

1. Encourage one another. (Heb. 10:25).
2. Build up one another. (1 Thess. 5:11).
3. Admonish one another. (Col. 3:16).
4. Exhort one another. (Heb. 3:13).
5. Stir up one another. (Heb. 10:24).
6. Comfort one another. (1 Thess. 4:18).
7. Instruct one another. (Rom. 15:14).
8. Be a servant to one another. (Gal. 5:13).
9. Outdo one another in showing honor. (Rom. 12:10).
10. Seek to do good to one another. (1 Thess. 5:15).

Teaching is obviously not all done by word of mouth. However, we all teach by our example and influence, by our encouraging words, and by the way we cooperate with others.

Admonitions to Teach

We have quite a few passages that give us encouragement to be teachers of God's Word. The following will illustrate:

1. The Older are to teach the younger. (Tit. 2:4).
2. We are to teach all Jesus has commanded. (Matt. 28:18-20).
3. We are to teach diligently the things of the Lord. (Acts 18:25).
4. We are to teach the same things. (1 Cor. 4:17).
5. We are to warn people in our teaching. (Col. 1:28).
6. We are to teach to establish people in the faith. (Col. 2:7).
7. We are to teach God's Word to others, so they can become teachers. (2 Tim. 2:2).
8. We are to teach no other doctrine. (1 Tim. 1:3).
9. We are to exhort people to continue in the faith. (Acts 14:22).
10. We are to teach with longsuffering. (2 Tim. 4:2).

It is important that we prepare ourselves to teach. The need is great and everyone can be used in one way or another to help teach the Word of God. We have been called and redeemed by Jesus to become His devoted servants (Rom. 6:16-18). We need to accept this obligation and serve well so we can be faithful workers in His Kingdom. I need to be willing to give the time, energy, and preparation to carry out my duties as a teacher servant. I need to continually cultivate my mind and spirit so that I can be an effective teacher of God Truth.

Where should we Teach?

The early church taught in various places and in various ways. The following will show what they did:

1. Jesus and the Apostles taught in the Synagogues and in the Temple where people would be gathered. (Matt. 9:35; 26:55; Acts 2:46; 13:14-16).
2. The Apostles and Jesus taught in Homes. (Mk. 2:1-2; Acts 5:42).
3. The Apostles also taught in public worship (1 Cor. 14:26).
4. Paul taught by the riverside. (Acts 16:13).
5. Paul taught in public buildings built for that purpose. (Acts 17:22).
6. Paul taught in prison. (Acts 16:25-30).

The early church seems to have taught in every place where people were willing to listen. It would seem reasonable that we can and should teach in every place where we can find one or more to listen.

Fortunately, we have ready-made places to teach people—such as our church buildings and classrooms. Unfortunately, we may come to the point of thinking that these are the only two places we can teach the Word of God. We need to use our imagination and try to work out a lot of additional places where we can teach others. Some have come up with various means of teaching, such as:

1. Bible Correspondence Courses
2. Religious magazines
3. Special devotional studies
4. Church libraries
5. Study materials made available on CDs
6. Radio Programs
7. Tracts
8. Special schools for teacher and preacher training

How can I become a more effective Teacher?

It is obvious that not all are gifted with the ability to teach effectively. And, there is an obvious difference in spiritual growth between the new Christians and the seasoned Christians. With this in mind, how can all of us become more effective teachers? The following things should be obvious to us all:

1. We must clearly see our responsibility to teach others (Heb. 5:11-14).
2. We must be motivated to serve by calling to mind God's mercy and forgiveness (Rom. 12:1).
3. We must not be satisfied with being mediocre in our efforts to serve God (Rom. 12:1).
4. Fully realize that people are lost without Christ in their lives and that we can make a difference in their lives (Jn. 14:6).
5. Fully realize that people must be taught the Gospel if they are to be saved (Jn. 6:44-45). There are no Christians outside of hearing, believing, and obeying the Gospel of Christ.
6. To work at developing a love for God's truth.(Ps. 119:72, 127).

There is no greater blessing to give to a person than the "bread of life" that will save his soul for eternal ruin.

Questions for Discussion

1. In what ways can every Christian be a teacher of the Word of God?

2. Where should teaching be done?

3. What will help me to be a more effective teacher?

4. What are some effective ways that others have developed to teach others?

