

2-7-16
RECOGNIZING THE GREATEST QUALIFICATION FOR A POLITICAL LEADER
A Christ Like Servant's Heart

Matthew 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

Matthew 20:21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Matthew 20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

Matthew 20:24 And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Matthew 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

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

Matthew 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.

This Morning I want to focus in on this statement that our Lord made:

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Matthew 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

In our text, the Mother of James and John come to Jesus and makes a request on behalf of her sons.. She asked for a special political position for them in the Kingdom..

To be Vice President and Speaker of the house, so to speak..

To be on the Lord's right hand and left hand when He gets elected..

Let us remember that the early disciples were looking for a Messiah who would take over the political arena as well as religious arena of the nation. There was no concept of separation of church and state!

Last night I saw some of the 2016 presidential debate in New Hampshire.

We are seeing a host of politicians scrambling to be next in line for the most powerful position in our nation today.. It is sad but true - the debates seem to be all about putting others down to elevate oneself.. Which made me think of this passage..

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Everyone is looking for men who are good at exercising their authority to make themselves look better than others.. It seems that if there was a good Christian Candidate running for president he would never make it..

Could you imagine.. in the debate a candidate obeying Philippians where it says..

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Any candidate that would do this.. will not fare very well in any political debate that I have been watching!

Now Jesus tells His disciples that when it comes to the Kingdom of God, those who lead should not lead like the rulers of this world..

Matthew 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;
Matthew 20:27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:
Matthew 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.

Whosoever will be great among you let him be your minister..
Whosoever will be chief let him be your servant..

Jesus told it straight. He said "if you want to make it big in the Kingdom of God .. esteem others greater than yourself.."

Get a true servants heart.. The one who will be great in the Kingdom of God, needs to be least..

Now in the Church of Jesus Christ.. this is how we need to operate - not like the political arena that we are witnessing on our TV sets.

We do not need.. titles or positions
We do not need.. to seek authority and fame..
We should not esteem the applause of men
We should not look for the favor of men
We do not need to rate high on opinion polls!

What we should seek is a servant's heart. This is the greatest virtue of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM AT THE TOP FOR SUCH A CHRISTIAN..

This is what I would like to talk to you about this morning..

I want to talk to about

**THE GREATEST QUALIFICATION FOR LEADERSHIP,
HAVING A SERVANT'S HEART..**

I. TO HAVE A SERVANTS HEART IS TO BE LIKE CHRIST... THOSE WHO ARE LIKE CHRIST WILL HAVE A TRUE SERVANT'S HEART..

Matthew 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

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

Matthew 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.

If you want to know what it is to have a servant's heart.. all you need to do is look and see how Jesus himself lived when he was on planet earth..

Jesus took upon himself the form of a servant....

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

The way Jesus manifested a servants heart:

He fed the multitudes:

He raised the dead:

He spit on the ground and gave sight to the blind:

A man who truly serves others will be in high demand....

Jesus gave what he had and ministered to others .. Now we may not have the power that Jesus had, nor the supernatural gifts, but if we use what we have like Jesus did then we can have similar results.

Today it is hard to find people with a servant's heart.. A person with a servant's heart will give what they have just like Jesus gave what He had.. He had no silver or gold.. what He had was more valuable.

NOW WE SHOULD USE AND MINISTER WITH WHAT WE HAVE..

You may not be able to raise the dead to life.. But if you are a mechanic, or an electrician, you can do a good job.. in providing what you are good at with a servant's heart..

We can use what we have to serve others and Christ..

In fact. because Jesus ministered to the needs of people he did not have to advertise. He often told people He healed not to tell others. He couldn't handle all the people that came to Him for help.

So those who serve others.. and are others minded will be in demand.

Their works will speak for themselves..

On the other hand if you are doing things only to exalt yourself.. it will be evident to all..

For instance, a local man decided to open a high end Italian restaurant in the area.. My wife and I decided to patronize the Restaurant. I had been witnessing to the fellow and trying to share Christ with the owner. When I handed him a tract he handed it back to me and said.. I don't need that I am " _____ " and go to such and such church every Sunday!

Coming home from work we decided to stop and get something light and a cup of coffee. When we got there we sat down to order a cup of coffee and the owner said, "We don't have coffee, we don't sell enough of it make it worth our while to even make it". His food was good, but I noticed portions were small and there wasn't anything for people who didn't like Italian food. In the area where we live there are some people who just don't like Italian food. That is hard to believe, but having ministered here for 33 years I know this as a fact. Well, in less than a year he went out of business. The reason was because he expected the people to just appreciate his great restaurant instead of providing a service that people wanted and needed in our area. People noticed this and soon stopped going to his restaurant.

Jesus, as an example, washed the disciple's feet. He did so to show his Apostles, who held the highest office in the church, should do!

II. WE CAN RECOGNIZE A CHRIST LIKE SERVITUDE SPIRIT BECAUSE IT IS NOT LIKE THE SPIRIT OF THIS WORLD WHICH PRODUCES A "LORDING IT OVER" TYPE OF HEART

Matthew 20:25 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.

Word means literally to put under, subjugate under, or literally to LORD IT OVER. Greek word is a compound word, Kata, = Over, & Kurios Lord

The rulers of this world, love to have positions of authority, and love to be magnified, exalted, and be served.,

Each generation, having less and less, of a servants heart...

In every area of life we need servants..
Waitresses, Restaurants, factories, mothers,
When I was young Doctors used to make house calls
All this is filtering down into the Church....

Authoritative preaching is becoming less and less popular, because it asks the hearers to repent and submit to the Word of God..

Members of the Church look at the Church as a corporation rather than a theocracy where Jesus rules and we are all his servants

FOLKS.. We need to avoid the "Lord it over", the rebellious attitude of the world.....

Satan was the first one to exalt himself with a spirit of Pride..

He said, I will exalt my throne.. and so, the opposite of a Christ like attitude is the attitude of the prince of this world! I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.. he said!

The difference is between serving others or being served..
Waiting on others or being waited on..
Giving or taking..
Seeking your own welfare or seeking the welfare of others..

WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT IS BEING MANIFEST IN OUR LIVES..

The Spirit of this world is a "Lording it over spirit".
The Spirit of Christ is a loving and caring spirit..

Let's discern the difference...

III. ANOTHER WAY WE CAN RECOGNIZE A TRUE CHRIST LIKE SERVANTS HEART IS THAT THOSE WHO SERVE LIKE CHRIST DO WHAT THEY DO AS UNTO THE LORD AND NOT UNTO MEN ...

Matthew 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.

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:
Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;
Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Insubmission is a spiritual problem.....

Reason people cannot be submissive to their authority is because they are not submissive to God...

The greatest qualification of leadership is found in a person's ability to follow. Whatever you do do it heartily as unto the Lord and not as unto men.

Bible says, that:

Children should obey their parents as unto the Lord

Wives should obey their husbands like the church should obey Christ Eph. 5:24

Men should serve their employer as unto the Lord not as unto men..

Employer to the government.. realizing the powers are set up of God..

The hardest position to show submission in is any office that does not have a physical head.....

To entrust a person with this type of position we should be careful that they have a record of having been submissive to their visible authorities..

Pastor, governors, rulers leaders.... who have no fear of God are dangerous people.

How can we entrust leadership to people who have showed no restraint in their moral lives?

We are seeing this in our political world and still have not learned anything! We need to look at a person's record which will reveal how they will lead.

A Pastor should not be a novice... but he should be one who has a record of servitude....

I Timothy 3:6 says that no man that is a novice ought to be entrusted in a position of being a Bishop or Pastor..

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

A spiritual leader should be tested at lower levels of fellowship before entrusted with higher levels of leadership....If someone did not do a good job in a lower level position what makes us think that they will do well in a higher position.

As we look at presidential candidates, it is obvious that some candidates never cared about serving in lower level positions but just used their positions as stepping stones to become president. Yet the American public is so biblically illiterate, lacking in spiritual discernment, that this does not even matter any more. In fact, a president who will be the boss over all of the military.. who would you want to hire for that job? Someone who just wants the position or someone who has proven themselves - that they could handle such a position! If that person could not even function well as a private in the army why would you make him a general?

Before I ever was a Pastor of a church .. I had been a Janitor in the church, I had been a Sunday School helper, and Sunday School teacher, headed up our DVBS in our church, was a deacon in the church, Organist, Choir director, pulpit supply.. etc.

Someday Pastor Bissol may graduate to heaven .. and the then church will be seeking God's will for another leader. I fear most churches try to elect a Pastor like our nation elects a President. Our nation, I believe, doesn't know what it is doing and it is more of a beauty contest than anything. The media has made a side show of the whole process.

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, **as to the Lord**, and not unto men;

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Colossians 4:1 Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

If you are truly seeking the approval of God you will never have to worry about compromising your stand in the Lord....

IV. ANOTHER WAY WE CAN RECOGNIZE A TRUE CHRIST LIKE SERVANT'S HEART IS THAT THOSE WHO SERVE LIKE CHRIST WILL NOT CIRCUMVENT GOD ORDAINED SPIRITUAL AUHORITY ..

Matthew 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

Matthew 20:21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Matthew 20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

Jesus said, to give to you that position in the Kingdom, is not mine to give....

It is not within my authority to make that decision....

God never circumvents his divinely established order of authority in the process of ordaining positions of service.... Jesus gained the right to rule planet earth by His submission to His Father ..

The Bible says He was obedient unto death!!!

The greatest qualification for leadership is having a track record of being submissive to authority! Principles of Authority are what makes leadership work and those who do not understand these principles should be disqualified to lead! For example, there is an interesting principle recorded in the Bible about those under authority and their power to make independent decisions. Note this passage...

Woman with a vow.... She has a heart to serve God... husband can dis-allow the vow if he hears it...

God is more interested in maintaining the divinely ordained order of authority, than having someone do service to Him..... He will not violate a greater principle:

So a true servant of the Lord will respect the divinely established and ordained patterns of Authority.....

Numbers 30:3 If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth;

Numbers 30:4 And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand.

Numbers 30:5 But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her.

Numbers 30:6 And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul;

Numbers 30:7 And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her in the day that he heard it: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds wherewith she bound her soul shall stand.

Numbers 30:8 But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of none effect: and the LORD shall forgive her.

In fact, today this even carries over to witnessing.. The Bible says that it is not appropriate for a woman to usurp her authority over her husband by preaching to him..

I Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

I have heard people say, that the most important thing that a person should do is witness and preach the gospel. Yet here we read that the Lord says that a person (wife in particular) is forbidden to preach to her husband because it breaks the picture of being under authority. In fact the greater witness on her part is being a living example of the gospel. Again we are ignorant of principles of authority. These principles trickle down to everyone in every position of life. And those we put in the highest positions of authority in our society should not be ignorant of these principles. YET THEY ARE and we wonder why everything in society is falling apart.

It is important that a Christian employee abides by the terms of his contract when he enters into a position of employment. It amazes me how Christians are flippant about their agreements and contracts.

DID YOU EVER NOTICE THAT GOD HIMSELF DID NOT VIOLATE THIS PRINCIPLE WHEN HE BROUGHT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT. WHY DID THE LORD SAY TO PHARAOH .. "LET MY PEOPLE GO.." Does God have to ask permission of Pharaoh? Yes he did because God did not want to violate principles of authority... They did not leave till Pharaoh said get out!

Exodus 3:18 And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and **now let us go**, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

Exodus 4:23 And I **say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me**: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

Exodus 7:16 And thou shalt say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, **Let my people go**, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear.

A person can appear to have a servant's heart but if they violate these principles of authority it is all show....

Just because a person is polite, yes sir, no ma'am, does not mean they are a servant.. People down south are good at this. They are polite and talk nice but are full of rebellion, They even call themselves rebels!

Just because a woman dresses modestly, even wears a head covering which is supposed to represent submission, this does not mean she has a servant's heart.

Just because a person is a hard worker does not mean they have a servant's heart...

A true servant of the Lord will not violate these principles of Authority and a true servant will do whatever they do as unto the Lord and not as unto men!

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A SINCERE SERVANT OF THE LORD

- I. TO HAVE A SERVANT'S HEART IS TO BE LIKE CHRIST... THOSE WHO ARE LIKE CHRIST WILL HAVE A TRUE SERVANT'S HEART..**
- II. WE CAN RECOGNIZE A CHRIST LIKE SERVITUDE SPIRIT BECAUSE IT IS NOT LIKE THE SPIRIT OF THIS WORLD WHICH PRODUCES A "LORDING IT OVER" TYPE OF HEART**
- III. ANOTHER WAY WE CAN RECOGNIZE A TRUE CHRIST LIKE SERVANT'S HEART IS THAT THOSE WHO SERVE LIKE CHRIST DO WHAT THEY DO AS UNTO THE LORD AND NOT UNTO MEN ...**
- IV. ANOTHER WAY WE CAN RECOGNIZE A TRUE CHRIST LIKE SERVANT'S HEART IS THAT THOSE WHO SERVE LIKE CHRIST WILL NOT CIRCUMVENT GOD ORDAINED SPIRITUAL AUHORITY ..**

Do you have a servants heart?
Some people appear humble but are really rebels inside.

Remember there is plenty of room at the top of God's hall of fame of servants:

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Matthew 20:26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

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

Matthew 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.

The ultimate service is that of giving your life for the Lord...

So many cannot give their time, how could they give their life...

Time, money, labor, these are minor points of service....

DO YOU HAVE A TRUE SERVANT'S HEART..... JESUS SERVED FAITHFULLY EVEN TO THE POINT OF GIVING HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM ON THE CROSS!

Matthew 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.

Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Matthew 20:23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.

Are you able to be baptized with the same baptism, and drink the same cup? Would you be faithful unto death?

The ultimate service you could give for the Lord is your life.... How committed are you? This is the Baptism that the Lord is referring to.

We ask soldiers to sacrifice their lives, and their time, for the service of their country, so could we not give our lives for our service for God?

At the Battle of Gettysburg..

Lee told, Longstreet, to order Pickett to cross a wheat field at Gettysburg, that Longstreet knew would be a suicide mission. Though he protested, in the end he ordered the charge because he was ordered to do so. The charge ended in failure. Over half of the 15,000 men who made that bold charge died that day..

IF MEN COULD FOLLOW MEN FOR THE HONOR OF COUNTRY WITH SUCH SERVITUDE AND SENSE OF DUTY, COULD WE NOT SERVE OUR GOD WITH THIS SAME SERVITUDE?

How committed are we to being a servant? What is wrong with this process of seeking a new leader in our nation today? It seems to me that we don't understand the importance of having a leader that understands what it is to be a servant.

Take Hillary for example, would she qualify to be commander in chief of our armed forces?

What Kind of wife was she?

What Kind of senator was she?

What kind of secretary of state was she?

Yet it may well be that our nation is going to elect her president. Why?

All because we lack biblical discernment. I am afraid we elect a president like we elect a Miss America, or an American Idol.

Yet in the church it ought not to be .. Jesus said..

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A SERVANT

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THIS IS THE GREATEST QUALIFICATION OF LEADERSHIP.. THE HIDDEN INGREDIENT OF THE GREATEST.. AND THE QUALITY THAT IS LACKING IN SO MANY LEADERS TODAY!