The Servant Heart

House of the Lord February 5, 2014

Serving God, by serving others, and serving the Kingdom of God.

The escalator has two directions.

The mail room, or the top floor executive suite.

Pursuing the blessing of the servant heart.

Matthew 20:26
Whoever desires to be great among you,
Let him become your servant.
:27
And whoever will be chief among you,
Let him start by serving you.

The way up is first down – submission, the route to success.

Matthew 23:11
But the greatest among you, is the one who serves you.

Matthew 24:44-47 (NAS)

For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think *He will*.

Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?
 Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. 47 Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

A servant heart followed, leads to success. Could it be, that the way up is really down?

Matthew 25:21 (NAS)

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Faithful in little, leads to ruler over much.

How akin is this to an eternal reward?

Matthew 25:23 (NAS)

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Note it is not, enter in Prophet, Priest, King, that is recorded. Ruling comes from serving.

Mark 9:35 (NAS)

Sitting down, He called the twelve and *said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

Mark 10:44 (NAS)

and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.

Luke 12:43-44 (NAS)

Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

44 Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

The danger of being double minded about the value of serving. The eye must be on the immediate goal, over the long-term goal. Focus on what will take you there, over there.

Servant hood is a mindset.

Luke 17:7-9 (NAS)

"Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'? ⁸ But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and *properly* clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink'? ⁹ He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he?

When the first New Testament Church was being founded, what need had the potential to sink it?

Acts 6:1-7 (NAS)

Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*. ² So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. ⁶ And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

⁷ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Key expression, when servants were faithfully serving, "the Word of God increased."

Look at where stepping down to serve, lifted Stephen and Phillip!

They served their way into availability and were rewarded, and recorded in the History of the Church.

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