

# You've Got to Serve Somebody

**Step 3** – We made a decision to turn our wills and our lives over to the care of God.

- What does serving mean; serving someone?
- How do we define this?

Often, we view service, or being a servant, as a negative thing, as a chore, as if someone is master or lording something over us. When we come at it from that direction, we are already starting out with a negative foundation.

**Exodus 1:8** *Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. 10 Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land. 11 So they appointed taskmasters over them to afflict them with hard labor...13 The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; 14 and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them.*

From last week's teaching we learned that there were a group of people who recognized the sin in their life (we all have sin), and these people chose to repent and take "A New Direction". Many had been enlightened by the message of John, turned their life around, and were now following Jesus (whom John had pointed to). John had begun to teach them, about this new direction and now Jesus continued with teaching about this new direction or way in life.

This is a committed life of serving God only, with all other things becoming secondary. This was a commandment given to Moses and Jesus quoted this in midst of his temptation in the desert. This doesn't leave other people behind in our life; it lives and breathes the life of God through us into others.

**Luke 4:7-8** *Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours. 8 Jesus answered him, It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.*

## Contrasts: Matthew 5:21-48

- |                           |          |  |                      |
|---------------------------|----------|--|----------------------|
| 1. Do not murder          | Anger    | 4. Vows  | Yes be yes           |
| 2. Do not commit adultery | Lust     | 5. Eye for and Eye                                   | Turn the other cheek |
| 3. Divorce                | Adultery | 6. Love your neighbor...Pray for them that persecute |                      |

## Hypocrisy: Matthew 6:1-18

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|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Giving | 2. Prayer | 3. Fasting |
|-----------|-----------|------------|

**Matthew 6:19-24** *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*

**Luke 16:13** *No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."*

Not fully in, not fully devoted, straddling the fence. Several people or things have my devotion so nothing has a centralized fully committed devotion. We may think we are serving God but have all these other mini gods we are serving and in essence are creating spiritual adultery. Could you be a part time slave or servant in the context of what is being talked about?

Slavery in the New Testament<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://bible.org/article/some-initial-reflections-slavery-new-testament>

# You've Got to Serve Somebody

- Part time service in the role of slaves was unheard of.
- The Israelites were slaves in Egypt and were willing to abandon their new life and go back to the taskmaster God.
- A Centurion asked for healing for his slave; and Jesus healed him (Luke 7)

## Bondservants:

Jesus (Phi. 2:7)  
Paul (Rom. 1:1)

Peter (2 Pet. 1:1)  
James (James 1:1)

Epaphras (Col. 1:7)

**Peter 2:19** promising them freedom while *they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.*

**Romans 6:12-16** Therefore *do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.* 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! 16 *Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, [Proverbs 14:12] or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*

Will there still be sin in my life; on occasion yes. As a Christ follower the difference will be, sin is no longer my master. It is not a dominating behavior in my life.

- We can be willingly or unwillingly serving another master
- We can be serving another master out of deception
- We can be in denial about serving another master
- We can rationalize, justify, or excuse serving another master
- Many times we serve other masters out of fear of what it might look like to truly serve God. We fear truly following him would interrupt our life as we want it, and so we live as if he is in a box or a recipe book on the shelf only reaching for Him in our time of need. This is not a true servant of Christ.

## Freedom Points – (Freedom is not based on works. Freedom is based in truth)

- Our God is not a taskmaster God.
- We cannot serve two Gods and experience lasting freedom
- Serving Christ is not a negative thing

## Walking It Out – (Our part/responsibility based on Christ in You, strengthening us as we choose to walk forward)

- Talk about it? Share past experiences where you were in bondage to sin, that it was a master over you; or where you are now in slavery to something other than God.
- Who or what are you serving?
- Are you serving multiple gods?
- Is sin your master?