

Liberty Commentary February 16, 2009

One of the stated initiatives of President Obama is to enable Americans to serve through expanding programs such as AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps. The President also wants to encourage middle and high school students to do 50 hours of community service per year.

Serving or being a servant can mean different things to different people. Certainly Jesus gave us the ultimate example of servitude. Jesus performed some 37 recorded miracles during His ministry on earth. Jesus healed the sick, caused the blind to see, fed the 5,000 and caused the lame to walk. Jesus was good because he was God, not because of the miracles and his attention to the needs of the poor and down cast. Therefore, because He is God, He is worthy of our lives in dedicated service to His plan and purpose.

If we are going to be a servant of Christ we must submit ourselves in total obedience to Him and not allow anything to come between us and the savior. Not our possessions, not our families, not our jobs, nothing but total surrender to the plan and purpose of God for our lives. When you finally come to that point in your life when you are willing to renounce all of the things that compete for your affection and turn totally to the Savior you will find that Jesus does not want you to abandon your family or your relationships, but he wants to perfect them by first having our priorities in proper order.

As Christians what does God require of servants?

1) God is looking for servants that are available and willing to be used of Him. In Acts 9:6 we find the account of the conversion of Paul on the road to Damascus. Paul, or Saul as was his name at that time, simply said, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do”. You know the rest of the story. Paul with a sordid past committed his life to Christ and became the greatest missionary of all time. Paul

evangelized the entire Roman Empire, established perhaps as many as 100 local churches, wrote half of the New Testament and led multitudes to Christ. Paul considered himself a servant. “Paul a servant of Jesus Christ..” (Romans 1:1)

2) God uses servants who can be interrupted from their busy schedules and routines. In Acts chapter 3 Peter was willing to be interrupted from his personal and important agenda, (he and John were going to the temple to pray). Peter took the time to be sensitive to the needs of those around him when a beggar asked for assistance. Peter took time to address the beggars needs and heals him. This provides Peter an opportunity to preach and lead 5,000 people to Christ at the temple as a result of being willing to be interrupted from his plan and schedule.

3) God uses servants who inspire hope in others. In II Timothy 2:1-2 Paul inspires hope in Timothy by telling him to be strong and continue to grow in strength and stamina and do not turn away from the faith. Paul encourages Timothy to never give way to complacency, but continue to grow in grace until the day God calls him home. Paul is telling Timothy to stay in the race and pass on to others the hope that he had found in Christ.

4) God uses servants who are willing to use what they have. In Exodus 4:10-12 God meets Moses at the burning bush and tells him to go to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt. Moses had a speech impediment. Moses was filled with feelings of inadequacy and inferiority, but God reassures him by telling him “I will be with thy mouth and teach thee what thou shalt say.” God used Moses to lead thousands of Israelites out of Egypt and across the Red Sea because he was willing to be a faithful servant.

5) God uses servants who will do their best and trust Him to do the rest. Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ

which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

6) God uses servants who want Him to get all the glory.

Paul writes in I Corinthians 10:31, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” Paul was a great man of God because he never lost sight of the fact that he does not serve to get glory, praise and accolades from his peers, but Paul was a servant because he loved people and wanted to take as many people to heaven with him as he could.

The biblical principle of being a servant of Christ is that He owns us lock, stock and barrel. If we could ever grasp this biblical principle of what it means to be a servant of Christ it would literally revolutionize our spiritual life. Paul would write in I Corinthians 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

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