

NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

ALTAR WORKERS TRAINING

LESSON 2 Part D: Being God's Servant

The following is a presentation mainly because I have observed that some of us wonder just how we can be used of God. Sometimes we doubt ourselves and in some cases individuals refused appointments assigned. Beloved, ***"Today our world does not need to see what we can do, but people need to witness what God wants to accomplish through us."***

This is a very short presentation but it is my prayer that it will be a means of accomplishing the intended objective of encouraging someone to have faith in God, knowing that He is able to use any one of us who make ourselves available to Him!! This is a compilation base on a book that I have read and it is intended exclusively for this class here at New Hope Church of God. May you be blessed as you release yourself completely in the hands of God and see what He can and will do in your life!!

May God richly blessed and guide you as you make yourself wholeheartedly committed to Him, loving Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength as you love others as you love yourself. May you be among those who say ***"speak LORD thy servant has heard your voice and will obey as You direct."*** I challenge you to think that you cannot afford to remain silent seeing the needs around you even as we are told to ***"redeeming the time, because the days are evil."*** (Eph. 5:16 NKJV). May you also be challenge as you consider ***"Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"*** (Esther 4:14b NKJV). Would be helpful if you read the Book of Esther.

Many Scripture passages describe Jesus as God's servant. He came to earth to accomplish God's will in redeeming humanity. Paul described Jesus' humble attitude and commended it to us in this way: **See Phil. 2:5-8.**

We are to develop the servant attitude that require humility and obedience. In His instructions to His disciples about servanthood Jesus describes His own role in service: ***"And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*** (Matt. 20:27-28 NKJV).

Jesus also explained our relationship to Him, ***". . . As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*** (John 20:21b NKJV). When you respond to God's invitation to salvation, you join Him in His mission of world redemption. **The salvation God offers comes with a corresponding summons to be on mission with Him. In this new relationship you move into a servant role with God as your Lord and Master.**

The common understanding of a servant is someone who approaches the master and says, “Master, what do you want me to do?” The master tells him, and the servant goes off and does it. But that is not the biblical picture of a servant of God. Being a servant of God is quite different from working for a human master. **While an ordinary servant labors for his master, God works through His servants!**

The biblical portrayal of God’s servants is more like a potter and clay. God described the relationship with His people in Jeremiah 18:1-6.

To be useful, clay has to be pliable. Once it is made into a vessel, its usefulness is still subject to the direction of the potter.

DIVINE MASTER AND HUMAN SERVANT

This portrayal of our service is far different than the way people serve one another. **When you offer yourself to God as His servant, He first expects to shape you into the instrument of His choosing. He will always work in you before He works through you. As you obey, He is the One who completes the work.**

As God’s servants we must do two things: (1) be moldable and (2) remain available for the Master’s (Potter’s) use. Then the Master will use us as He chooses. We can do nothing of kingdom value in our own power. As Jesus said, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself”** (John 5:19a NKJV) and **“. . . without Me you can do nothing.”** (John 15:5b NKJV). **When God works through His servant that person can do anything God chooses to do through his or her life.** The potential is unlimited. But servanthood requires obedience. Servants of God must do what they are told and they must remember who is accomplishing the work—God.

If you have been operating from a disoriented approach to spiritual servanthood, this concept should change your perspective about serving God. You don’t receive orders, then go and carry them out to the best of your knowledge and ability. You relate to God, respond to Him, and adjust your life to Him so He will do what He wants through you.

Today our world does not need to see what we can do, but people desperately need to witness what God wants to accomplish through us.

ELIJAH THE SERVANT

Elijah was one of the great Old Testament prophets of Israel and a servant of God (see 1 Kings 17:1) during the time when King Ahab and his wife Jezebel, through their wicked leadership, led the people of Israel away from God to worship Baal, a Canaanite fertility god. We read in 1 Kings 18:16-39 that Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to a public showdown to prove definitely who was the true God. This was an extreme bold move since Elijah was outnumbered eight to one.

Elijah proposed that the prophets of Baal prepare a sacrifice and ask their god to send fire to consume it. He would similarly appeal to the God of Israel for fire. Of course, Baal—who was no god—did not answer the prophet’s plea, even when they wail and pleaded. When it was Elijah’s turn, he repaired the altar of the LORD and laid out his sacrifice. God answered with fire, consuming the sacrifice and even the stone altar—as Elijah proposed. If God had not displayed His own work by sending fire, Elijah would have utterly failed, and that would have cost him his life. **It’s crucial to understand that this test was not Elijah’s idea but God’s.**

Throughout the process, Elijah had to remain close to god and do whatever the LORD commanded. **He went where God told him, when God told him, and he did what God told him to do.** In his prayer Elijah said: ***“Let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all things according to Your word.”*** (1 Kings 18:36b NKJV). Then God accomplished His purposes through Elijah who attributed the work back to God when he said, ***“You have turned their hearts back to You again.”*** (1 Kings 18:37b NKJV). Elijah wanted the people to identify the LORD as the true God, and that is exactly how the people responded.

So to review: Did Elijah bring down fire from heaven, or did God do it? What was Elijah’s role? Obedience.

Elijah had no ability to bring down fire from the sky, but God did. Elijah did not have the strength to overcome eight hundred and fifty hostile idol worshippers, but God did. When God did something only He could do, all the people knew He was the true God. God did this mighty work, but He acted through His servant Elijah. **Elijah made his life available for God’s use, God did a powerful work that impacted the nation.**

ORDINARY PEOPLE

Beloved, as we continue, please take a moment and carefully consider the following:

“Yes, God chooses and uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. He doesn’t need our ability, but rather our AVAILABILITY. He uses ordinary people who have nothing of their own to offer, but their faithfulness and willingness to say “YES” to God!”

When you think about working with God in His mission to redeem a lost world, you may ask, ***“What can one ordinary person do?”*** One of the wonderful Scriptures that has helped me on this point describes Elijah: ***“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.”*** (James 5:17-18 NKJV)

This mighty man of God was an ordinary person just like you and me. But when he prayed, God responded miraculously. Elijah did not have any unusual giftedness or power. He simply humbled himself in the role of a servant. He obeyed everything God instructed him to do, and God worked through Elijah to influence an entire nation to return to God.

PETER AND JOHN

Peter and John were two of the first disciples Jesus called to follow Him. After Jesus' resurrection, God healed a crippled beggar through Peter. Peter and John were called before the Sanhedrin—the highest court of the land—to give an account of their actions. **Filled with the Holy Spirit Peter spoke fearlessly to the religious leaders.** Notice the people's response: ***“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”*** (Acts 4:13 NKJV).

Most of the people we read about in Scriptures were ordinary men and women. Their relationships with God and God's activity in their lives made them extraordinary. Did you notice the statement—the leaders recognized that Peter and John ***“had been with Jesus”?***

Peter and John were common fishermen, but their association with Jesus made them world changers. **Anyone who enters into an intimate relationship with God can see God do exceptional things through his or her life. The outcome does not depend upon a person being unusually gifted, educated, or wealthy. The key is the indwelling presence of God doing unusual things through a willing servant.**

D. L. Moody: A COMMON SHOE SALESMAN

Dwight L. Moody was a poorly educated shoe salesman who felt the call of God to preach the gospel. While visiting the British Isles, Moody attended an all-night prayer meeting with some friends. The next morning, his friend Henry Varley said, **“The world has yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to Him.”**

Moody was deeply moved by those words. Later, he listened to the famous pastor Charles H. Spurgeon preaching in his massive church in London. Moody's biographer described how he responded:

*“The world had yet to see! With and for and through and in man!’ Varley didn't say he had to be educated, or brilliant, or anything else! Just a man! Well, by the Holy Spirit in him, he'd (Moody) be one of those men. And then suddenly, in that gallery, he saw something he'd never realized before—it wasn't Mr. Spurgeon, after all who was doing that work: it was God. And if God could use Mr. Spurgeon, why should He not use the rest of us, and to say to him, **“Send me! Use me!”**”*

Soon afterward, God began to use Moody in powerful ways. Moody had come to realize that his effectiveness did not depend on his own eloquence, charisma, or intelligence but on his surrendered life to Christ. Moody could not make himself more talented, but he could choose to be more surrendered. **As he yielded his life to God, he immediately began to experience God using him in ways he could not imagined.** **Moody became one of the greatest evangelist of modern times.** During much of the nineteenth century he preached in revival services across Britain and America where thousands of people came to faith in Jesus Christ.

Could God work in extraordinary ways through your life to accomplish significant things for His kingdom? You might say, “Well, I am not D. L. Moody.” You don’t have to be. God wants you to be the person He created you to be and let Him do through you whatever He chooses. When you believe that nothing consequential can happen through you, you have said more about your belief in God than you have indicated about yourself. **The truth is that God can do anything He pleases through an ordinary person who is fully dedicated to Him.**

JOHN THE BAPTIST

It probably does not surprise you that God’s standard of excellence is different from ours. The public ministry of John the Baptist lasted perhaps six months, but what was Jesus’ estimate of John’s life? **“For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist ...”** (Luke 7:28a NKJV).

Don’t measure excellence by the world’s standard. Many denominations are doing it. Many pastors and churches are doing it. Many business people are doing it. **By the world’s assessment, a person or church may look pretty good yet in God’s sight be totally unacceptable (see Rev. 3:17). Similarly, a person or a congregation may be wholly pleasing to God yet in the world’s eyes appear insignificant.** Could a pastor who faithfully serve God in a small rural community be pleasing to the Lord? Of course—if that is where God placed him. Could a homemaker or shoe maker bring great glory to God through the seemingly ordinary tasks they accomplish? Yes. God will look for and reward faithfulness, whether, the person has been given responsibility for little or much (see Matt. 25:14-30).

God delights in using ordinary people to accomplish His divine purpose. Paul said God deliberately seek out the weak and despised things because it is from them that He receives the greatest glory (see 1 Cor. 1:26-31). When God does exceptional things through unexceptional people, then others recognize that only God have done it. **If you feel weak, limited, and ordinary, take heart! You are the best material through which God can work!**

SUMMARY

The call to salvation carries with it a summons to be on mission with God as He reconciles a lost world to Himself. This calling requires you to be servant of God. **Jesus provided the best model of servanthood, which is both humble and obedient.** As servant you must be moldable and remain available for the Master’s use. Even though you may consider yourself ordinary, God will prepare you. Then He will do His work through you, revealing Himself to a watching world.

Eph. 6:7 NKJV

“ . . . with goodwill doing service as to the Lord, and not to men, . . . ”

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