

Passion for Service

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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What is service? The essence of service is denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Jesus. He came not to be served, but to serve. Jesus loves us and He does not impose that we should serve Him (Mk. 8:34-38). We have the freedom to say yes or no, because love is free. Servanthood is not choosing what we want. Rather, what God wants takes precedence. To rekindle the flame of service means sincerely offering ourselves to serve God and others.

What should we remember when we rekindle the passion for service?

1. The Honesty of Jesus

1.1 There are no false pretenses. When He said: "Come, follow me," He never bribed the men with an offer of an easy life. He knew that it would be a hard life: a life of surrender, suffering, and giving. Similarly, He wants to challenge us, to make us glorious and to shine as children of God. If we choose to follow the Jesus way, then we have to stand up and speak the unpopular message.

1.2 We also need to be vigilant and pray harder because the devil is not happy when we follow Jesus. The devil will be afraid of a person who is a child of God.

1.3 We must remain in a state of grace so that the devil will not be able to touch us. With frequent confession, we surrender to God and cleanse our soul.

1.4 Jesus himself faced temptations, but He was able to say: "Get behind me Satan." The word of God allowed Him to defeat Satan. Our weapon is the Word of God. Jesus read, studied, reflected and lived the Word of God. Hence, we must not stop at praying and reading the Bible; we should live by it.

2. We must deny ourself.

2.1 To deny ourselves is to deny our existence. This is contrary to treating ourselves as the most important thing in the world (we deserve a good life, a beautiful, comfortable life). We

must deny ourself even if we know we can afford something. In every moment of our life, we must say "yes" to God.

2.2 Self-denial is giving up something. During Lent, our time should be devoted to God, through service and sacrifice. When we surrender, we enter into God's abundant mercy on a deeper level. John the Baptist was the only heir of Zaccharia and Elizabeth, but he preferred to live a simple life, dependent on God.

3. **We must take up His Cross.** The Cross is not a burden. Jesus embraced the Cross. We are the Cross and Jesus did not see us as His burden. Similarly, we must look at the cross as an opportunity for grace.
4. **We must follow Him.** A mission is being given to us. To render Jesus perfect obedience, He will not call us to ruins, but to a peaceful and glorious life.
5. **We must give life.** "Finding life by losing life" is a paradox. If we can give life in many ways by fulfilling God's mission, we will have a fruitful one. In the TLF community, we are gathered to ignite and rekindle the fire to serve. But are we truly changing our ways to be holy? When we come to worship God, there should be a change in our life. There should be consistency. When others see the change in us, then we also influence others. The secret is to provide time for the Lord, and He will give order in our life.

Conclusion: We must rekindle the flame of service and fellowship. If we are still staying at home instead of going to church or going to LF, then we are just being lazy and staying in our comfort zones. We need to be servants to one other. Let us grow with each other in service and in love.

Reflection:

- 1) Why do you want to serve? What do you desire when you serve?
- 2) Is the Word of God enlashed in your life?
- 3) Are you being enslaved by modern gadgets, used by the devil to fill your time away from the Lord?

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