HEART OF A SERVANT LEADER

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic Rev. Fr. Gerald "Moski" Moscardon April 20, 2024

Each of us will give an account of our lives to God on Judgment Day. Are we sure that the Lord will say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, come share in your Master's joy" (Matt.25:23)? This reward is possible only if, we approach our lives on earth working and serving the Lord with all our heart.



1. The Origin of Service.

- 1.1. "SERVIAM" I Will Serve. God created Angels showing their Hierarchy of Service not of Authority. Angelos, meaning messengers, existed because of "SERVIAM-I Will Serve." When a war broke out in heaven, Michael and the Angels battled against the dragon (Rev.12). Most of the Angels said, "SERVIAM!" One of them, Lucifer, said, "NON SERVIAM." He refused to serve God.
- 1.2. **Jesus' Mandated Service.** On Maundy Thursday, Jesus washed the feet of His Apostles; then, He mandated them to do the same. He wanted servants to serve one another.

2. Reasons for Service. We are disciples of Jesus:

- 2.1. Jesus came to serve and not to be served (Mk.10:45). We worship & obey only Him.
- 2.2. Jesus' mission was to be a servant to the will of the Father (Jn.6:38). We need to serve and follow the will of the Father.
- 2.3. Jesus' service was borne out of His love for the Father and to those who His Father loves (Jn.13:1). Christian service is a CHOICE out of LOVE.

3. The Quality of Our Response To Serve.

- 3.1. God's work does not call for <u>volunteers</u>; Jesus calls for <u>servants</u> who will follow His lead.
- 3.2. The Servant Leader was a Servant First. We need to serve, then aspire to lead.
- 3.3. As servants of the Church of Christ, We are God's "slaves." But, slaves with a choice.

- 3.4. When God offers freedom, He offers a choice. Would we choose Jesus or Satan?
- 3.5. Jesus expects obedience from His slaves.
- 3.6. We do not preach ourselves. We preach for Jesus (2 Cor.4:5).

4. Mary is the model slave, not a volunteer.

- 4.1. Humble Service. "How can this be, since I have no relation with a man" (Luke1:34)? Mary was a consecrated virgin who offered to serve in the temple.
- 4.2. Humble Obedience. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke1:38). Though Mary didn't fully understand what would happen to her, she obeyed.
- 4.3. Humble Prayer. "My soul rejoices in God, my Savior, for He had looked with favor on His lowly servant" (Luke1:46-55). Mary's prayer was a song of a lowly servant.
- 4.4. Humble Stewardship. "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety (Luke2:48)?" Mary knew they were called as stewards to take care of the Son of God.
- 4.5. Humble Charity. "They are out of wine" (Jn.2:3). Mary knew their needs and what to do as a part of her charity.
- 4.6. Humble Counsel. "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn.2:5). This is her greatest counsel to us: to do whatever Jesus tells us to do.

5. Volunteers or Slaves of Christ and His Church?

- 5.1. A volunteer is not obligated, nor does he/she feel ownership of the task. On the other hand, a slave of Christ does it because Jesus said so. Volunteers ask, "How much is required of me"? Conversely, slaves of Christ do not count the cost.
- 5.2. Volunteers feel gratified at a job well done; whereas slaves of Christ feel gratified when they feel the joy of their Master.

CONCLUSION: Jesus said, "You are my friend if you do what I command!" Let us be His best friend, then be His best slave (Jn.15:14).

REFLECTION: What do you plan to do to be Jesus' best friend?

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