

Privileged to Serve

Sermon Outline

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September 13, 2015

John 15:15–16 (NIV)

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Thesis:

The privilege to serve God can be such that our Lord calls us His friends.

Servants of God in the OT

Abraham

Genesis 18:5 (NIV) — 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.” “Very well,” they answered, “do as you say.”

Moses

Exodus 14:31 (NIV) — 31 And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Joshua

Judges 2:8 (NIV) — 8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten.

David

2 Samuel 3:18 (NIV) — 18 Now do it! For the LORD promised David, ‘By my servant David I will rescue my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and from the hand of all their enemies.’ ”

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Jesus Christ and the Privilege to Serve

Jesus Christ's teaching on service

Matthew 6:24 (NIV) — 24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Parables on service

Matthew 20:1–16 (NIV) — 1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. (con't)

Matthew 24:45–51 (NIV) — 45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? **46** It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. **47** Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. (con't)

Matthew 25:14–30 (NIV) — 14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. **15** To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. (con't)

Luke 12:35–40 (NIV) — 35 “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, **36** like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. **37** It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. (con't)

Luke 17:7–10 (NIV) — 7 “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? (con't)

Servants of God in the NT

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Acts 16:17 (NIV) — 17 She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.”

Acts 2:18 (NIV) — 18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

Acts 4:29 (NIV) — 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

2 Peter 1:1 (NIV) — 1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

Jude 1 (NIV) — 1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

Paul as a servant

A servant of God

Romans 15:17 (NIV) — 17 Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.

A servant of Jesus Christ

Romans 1:1 (NIV) — 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—

A servant of the Gospel

Ephesians 3:7 (NIV) — 7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

A servant of the Church

2 Corinthians 4:5 (NIV) — 5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

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2 Corinthians 13:4 (NIV) — 4 For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you.

Colossians 1:24–25 (NIV) — 24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. **25** I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—

Christian Service

Gifts of service

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) — 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Romans 12:7 (NIV) — 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;

1 Corinthians 12:5 (NIV) — 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

Ephesians 4:12 (NIV) — 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

1 Peter 2:16 (NIV) — 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

Examples of service

Romans 12:11 (NIV) — 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

2 Corinthians 9:12–13 (NIV) — 12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. **13** Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience

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that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

Ephesians 6:6–7 (NIV) — **6** Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. **7** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,

Colossians 3:22–24 (NIV) — **22** Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. **23** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Revelation 2:19 (NIV) — **19** I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

Christian leadership entails service

1 Peter 5:2 (NIV) — **2** Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve;

Acts 6:2–4 (NIV) — **2** So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. **3** Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them **4** and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."