



Practical Christian Living

Make Me a Servant

Read a slogan and see if they can guess the company:

“Have it your way” - Burger King

“You’re the boss” - Burger King

“Obey your thirst” - Sprite

“Do What Tastes Right” - Wendy’s

“You Deserve a Break Today” - McDonalds

What is the common thread that runs through these slogans?

- It is all about you! You are the boss and you should get things your way.

The Voice of Culture

Getting things your way is the dominant message of our culture. Being a servant is not one of the dominant messages of our culture. Just the opposite. Culture wants you to think you are supposed to be the boss.

Why would a “Godless” world have to fall back on us being the boss?

- Without God as the ultimate authority the responsibility falls back on mankind.

How good of a job has mankind done at running the show?

- We have failed miserably.

Culture looks down on servants and up to bosses but the Gospel reverses the order of things. Jesus made it very clear that the attitude that you are the boss of your own life just wouldn’t fly.

The Voice of the Gospel

Mark 10:35-40

James and John asked for a blank check from Jesus. *Why was their request a very bold and even improper one?*

- They were asking to be held above the other disciples
- They were asking for a position that was reserved for someone much greater than themselves.

What kind of attitude would it take to make such a request?

- Possibly arrogance and entitlement

How does Jesus show their request was an ignorant one (vs.38)?

- He told them they didn’t know what they were asking.

Jesus uses this request as a teachable moment for his disciples.

Mark 10:42-45

What does Jesus say is the criteria for greatness?

- Being a servant and serving others

Whose example does Jesus point to that shows us he is serious about this?

- Himself—he was willing to do it himself.
- Jesus became a suffering servant who gave his life to save us from sin even though he didn't have to.

The Example of Jesus—Philippians 2:5-11

Jesus was divine. He was in effect God. *But what does Paul say was his attitude toward his equality with God?*

- That position was not something to be eagerly or greedily held on to. Instead, he let it go.

How did Jesus let it go?

- By becoming a man—not just any man, a servant.

How obedient was Jesus as a suffering servant?

- He was obedient even to the point of death...and not just any death...death on a cross.

What did God do as a result?

- God exalted Jesus.

We are called to go and do and be likewise. If service was good enough for Jesus it should be good enough for us. When you become a Christian you die to yourself and you begin living for God. That means the message the world sends, that getting our needs and wants met first and foremost, is no longer valid. We have to put God and others first and the best way to do that is through having the attitude and position of a servant.

Application:

How can we show our willingness to serve in places where it is not expected?

What talents do you have that can be used to serve others?

What is the biggest challenge for you to serve someone else?

What attitudes do you have that challenge having a servant's heart?