

“How Real Servants Think”

November 26, 2017

**Our Savior’s Way
Worshiping Sundays 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM
Pastor Bill Mann**

Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year—also known as Christ the King Sunday. I want to talk to you about Jesus Christ the King, but also about you and me as servants of the King. Here are three Bible verses to begin with:

Moses said, “My servant Caleb thinks differently and follows me completely. (Numbers 14:24)

(REAL SERVANTS THINK DIFFERENTLY)

St. Paul wrote, “Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.” (Philippians 2:5)

(REAL SERVANTS THINK LIKE CHRIST)

Do you want to be a servant of the King? Then, you’re going to have to change the way you think. Servanthood requires a shift in attitude. Because God is always more interested in why we do something, not just what we do. Attitudes count more than achievements. In the Book of Kings we read that King Amaziah lost God’s favor because “He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, yet not with a true heart.”

(REAL SERVANTS KNOW THAT ATTITUDE COUNTS MORE THAN ACHIEVEMENT)

So, let’s talk about four attitudes of a real servant of Christ the King:

FIRST, REAL SERVANTS FORGET ABOUT THEMSELVES

Servants don't think less of themselves, but they forget about their own needs long enough to care about the needs of others. Take a look at this video. This guy is so caught up with his own business, he misses the opportunity to be a servant—count the missed opportunities to serve.

How many missed opportunities did you see? Did you hear the important points: (1) We are made in God's image, and when we serve we allow others to see Christ in us. We let a little heaven into this world. (2) The Butterfly Effect—when we serve there is a butterfly/ripple effect. We don't even know how God will use our service for good in ways we can't even imagine. (3) The person we serve might be Jesus. In our Gospel today Jesus says, "If you did it unto one of the least of these, you did it unto me." If we have eyes of faith, we can see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet, in everyone we help.

SECOND, REAL SERVANTS THINK LIKE STEWARDS NOT LIKE OWNERS

Real servants remember that God owns it all. God gives us everything we have. We have the use of it for the 80 or 90 years we live on this earth. But eventually we give it up. God is the owner. The Bible says that the one thing God requires of his servants is to be faithful to the owner. So, here's a question: How are you handling the resources God has entrusted to you?

I'm just going to be honest for a minute and say, "If you want to be a real servant you're going to have to settle the issue of money in your life. Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and money." He didn't say, "You shouldn't serve both." Jesus said, "You cannot serve both." It's impossible. It can't be done. Living to serve Christ the King and living to make a lot of money are mutually exclusive goals. The question is: Which one will you choose? If you are a servant of Christ the King, you can't moonlight for yourself. Jesus wants all of you. He's not satisfied with part-time faithfulness.

Money has the greatest potential to replace God in our lives. More people are sidetracked by materialism than anything else. You can't moonlight—you can't say I'm going to be committed to serving Christ, but these other commitments I have are just as important. God requires 100% discipleship. And you can't put God off. A person can say, "I'll just get my life in order and then I'll be able to start serving God." That's a foolish decision—a decision that person will regret for eternity. When Jesus is your master, he wants to be king. There can be no other.

THIRD, REAL SERVANTS FIND THEIR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Here's a little saying that you can embroider on a sampler: "Show me someone without an ego and I'll show you a loser." That little nugget of wisdom is from a book called "How to Get Rich." (You can google the author) But that kind of thinking is all around us. "Do whatever you need to get ahead. Don't worry about the other guy. Think of yourself first." Tell me, is this really how we should live? Think of the example of Christ our King. At his last supper with his disciples, Jesus wrapped a towel around his waist, took a bowl of water and washed his disciples' dirty feet. "As I have washed your feet," Jesus said, "so you must wash one another's feet." It was an example of service.

Real servants find their identity in Christ. In his example. In his sacrifice on the cross. In his overwhelming and unconditional love for us. We know God loves us because Christ died for us. Christ is our King. But the crown he wore was made of thorns. His throne was a cross. Jesus loves us and Jesus died for us and Jesus will come again as King to claim us as his own. This is our identity in Christ. And so, real servants don't need cover their walls with plaques. We don't need flowers or a box of thank you cards (although appreciation is nice and can make you feel good). But we don't need it. Real servants don't need special titles or recognition. St. Paul said, "You can brag about yourself, but the only real approval you need is from the Lord." I think of James and his letter to the New Testament Church. If you

remember, James was the half-brother of Jesus. He could drop a few names—Jesus, Peter, Paul. Do you know how James began his letter? He began with these simple words—“James, a servant of God and of Christ Jesus.” The closer you get to Jesus, the less you need to promote yourself.

FINALLY, REAL SERVANTS THINK OF SERVING AS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT AN OBLIGATION

Real servants enjoy helping people, meeting needs, getting things done. The Thanksgiving Baskets have been delivered. The Angel Tree and the Jesse Tree have gone up. When I look into the faces of the folks involved in these ministries; when I meet the volunteers returning from mission trips; when I see the youth or the men or the women coming back from retreat—I look into their faces and I see joy. The Bible says, “Serve the Lord with gladness!” There is joy in serving! Why?—Because we love the Lord and we are grateful for his grace and we know that we are serving the highest purpose of life. We are serving the King of Creation—Jesus Christ, and he has promised us a reward. Jesus promised: “The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me.” The Apostle Paul added: “He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for others.”

The Biblical standard for giving is the TITHE—10%. Imagine what would happen if just 10% of the Christians in the world got serious about their role in being a real servant. Imagine all the good that could be done! Are you willing to be one of those people? Albert Schweiter said, “The only really happy people are those who have learned how to serve.”