

SERMON NOTES



Wiii Use What God Gives
October 20 & 21, 2007

INTRODUCTION:

What should motivate us to serve?

I. Our Commitment to Christ

"You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." (John 13:13-17)

"I came not to be served, but to serve and give my life a ransom for many." (Mark 10: 45)

II. Our Love for and Gratitude to Christ

"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

III. Our Desire to Glorify God

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"(1 Corinthians 10:31)

"Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:12)

IV. Our Recognition of Who We Are

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

"For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:7-8)

EXCUSES:

1. I'm too Busy

"Most of the world's great men have achieved their true life work, not in the course of their needful occupation, but in their spare time."

2. I'm too Old

3. There's Nothing I can do

"It is not the possession of extraordinary gifts that make for extraordinary usefulness, but the dedication of what we have to His service."

"It is not the talented, but the consecrated who serve the Lord best."

"Success in almost any field depends more on energy and drive than on intelligence, which explains why there are so many stupid leaders."

V. Our Responsibility as a Steward

"What contribution did you make to the building of my Kingdom?"

"The vows of God are on me. I may not stay and play with shadows or pluck earthly flowers, till I my work have done and rendered up accounts." Amy Carmichael.

VI. Our Desire to Receive a Reward

"According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." (Colossians 3:23-24)

VII. Our Desire for Greatness

"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.'" (Matthew 20:25-28)

"In other kingdoms they rule whose privilege it is to be ministered unto. In the divine Kingdom, they rule who count it a privilege to serve." A.B. Bruce