

Preachers Are Servants Of God

INTRODUCTION :

- A. This topic is too broad to cover.
- B. We will look at only a few a sampling of subjects within the topic.

I. MANY GREAT MEN OF GOD WERE REFERRED TO AS SERVANTS.

A. In times of old

- 1. Job ... **Job. 1: 8 ; 2: 3**
- 2. Abraham ... **Gen. 26:24** (Friend of God ... **James 2:23**)
- 3. Moses ... **Num. 12: 7-8 ; II Kgs. 21: 8**
- 4. David ... **II Sam. 3: 18 ; Isa. 37:35** (Man after God's own heart ... **Acts 13: 22**)
- 5. "My servants the prophets" ... **II Kgs. 17: 13 ; Jer. 7:25 ; Ezek. 38:17 ; Zech. 1: 6**

B. The great men of the church were referred to as God's servants.

- 1. The Apostles
 - a. John ... **Rev. 1: 1**
 - b. Peter ... **II Pet. 1: 1**
 - c. Paul ... **Rom. 1: 1** (cf - **Ax. 16:17**)
- 2. Preachers
 - a. Timothy ... **Phil. 1: 1**
 - b. Epaphras ... **Col. 1: 7**
 - c. Tychicus ... **Col. 4: 7**
- 3. The brothers of the Lord Jesus
 - a. James ... **James 1: 1**
 - b. Jude ... **Jude 1**

C. Jesus is the most famous servant of all.

- 1. **Acts 4: 27-31**
- 2. **Rom. 15: 8-9**
- 3. **Phil. 2: 5-8**

D. God's servants hold a special place in His heart.

- 1. He avenged the prophets killed by the wicked Jezebel.

- II Kings 9: 6**– He arose and went into the house, and he poured the oil on his head and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, *even* over Israel.
- 7**– ‘You shall strike the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.

2. He will rain fiery vengeance on those who have persecuted the servants of Christ.

- II Thes. 1: 6**– For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, **7**– and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8**– dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

3. **John 12: 25-26** ... Jesus has prepared Heaven for His servants. (cf. – **Jn. 14: 1-6**)

II. PEOPLE TODAY DON'T COMPREHEND THE CONCEPT OF SERVANTHOOD

A. The slave is owned by another.

1. **Psa. 24:1** ... We are all owned by God.
2. We have been purchased by Jesus, incl. our bodies.
 - a. **I Cor. 6: 19-20**
 - b. **Ax 20: 28**
 - c. Compare ... **Rom. 12: 1 , Phil. 1: 20**

B. The slave has no rights or life separate and apart from his owner.

1. **Gal. 2: 20**
2. **II Cor. 5: 14-19**

C. The servants of God are warned not to allow anything to interfere with their service to Him or to take a priority over it.

1. **Matt. 10: 37-39** ... Father, mother, children, life = not worthy
 - a. **Luke 14:26-27**
 - b. **I Cor. 7: 32-35**
 - c. **Mark 10: 28-31**
2. **II Tim. 2: 3-4** ... Servants of another do not entangle themselves in life.
3. Sideline business, hobbies, personal interests, etc.

D. Notice how Jesus views a servant.

1. **Luke 17: 7**– “Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come immediately and sit down to

eat'? **8**– But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and *properly* clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink'? **9**– He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he?
10 – "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done *only* that which we ought to have done.'

2. Our culture will not allow us to treat others in this way so we do not think of our having such a responsibility to God.
 - a. We excuse member who say they are too tired to serve God after work.
 - b. We excuse members who don't serve because they are busy with personal things.
 - c. We don't want to be held to the standard of Jesus so we don't teach it.

E. Preachers are those who have voluntarily yielded themselves to servanthood.

1. **Exodus 21: 5**– But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,' **6** – then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently.
2. The circumstance of the voluntary slave is very different from the one captured in war.
3. God has an all volunteer army !!

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD SLAVE. (preacher)

A. His is submissive to his master

1. **II Pet. 2: 18** ... Be submissive.
2. **John 12: 41-48** ... He follows his master.
3. **Phil. 2:14** ... Obey without grumbling and complaining.

B. He is obedient even when his master is not around.

1. **Col. 3: 22-25** (compare ... **I Cor. 4: 1-2**)
2. Not worried about what people think. (We serve God.)
3. **Do the very best we can do.** (The brethren may be pleased, but God knows.)

C. The servant of God must get along with the other servants.

1. **II Tim. 2: 24-26**
 - a. Not quarrel some even when making corrections.
 - b. Gentle, kind and patient
 - c. Able to teach
2. **John 12: 41-48**
 - a. Not taking advantage of his position

- b. Preachers are servants, not the king of the congregation.
- c. Preachers should not be looking down of less capable members.

D. Each servant uses the tools in his own tool box to the Master's best advantage.

1. I Cor. 13: 14-26

- a. It is the plan of God that every member (every preacher) be different.
- b. Vs. 18 ... God has a plan for every member.
- c. No member is any better than any other.

2. Rom. 12: 3-21

- a. God's plan is for the church (and congregation thereof) to be diverse.
- b. Each member / preacher / congregation must develop its gifts for God's use.
- c. The preacher must be constantly developing his gifts, not comparing to others.

E. The servant of God must be willing to stick it out when times get hard.

1. I Cor. 6: 1-10

- a. Sometimes the servant is abused because of his work. (don't earn abuse)
- b. Enduring hardship in a godly way glorifies our Master.
- c. Each servant must set an example for all others.

2. II Tim. 2: 1-3

- a. As servants (soldiers) we are commanded to endure hardship.
- b. No conflict is without hardship.
- c. God will enable us to endure anything. ... **Phil 4: 13**

3. II Tim 4: 1-5

- a. The hardship we bear is part of **doing the work of an evangelist.**
- b. We are not better than our master. They crucified Him