

Deacons Lesson # 3

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HHBI

Text: Mark 10:42-45 But Jesus called them to him , and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. [43] But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: [44] And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. [45] For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

1. Servant Leader; This concept was Jesus' idea. The word "minister" literally means "to attend to or wait upon."

- Jesus took upon Himself the "form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:)
- Jesus Christ is the ultimate display of servant leadership.
- As a deacon it is vital that you view your office as that of a servant leader. Your perspective on this principle will play out in every facet of your leadership—both personal settings and in church ministry.
- Jesus taught us to "minister"—to give ourselves as he gave himself.
- He introduced a "towel and bowl" kind of leadership—the kind of leadership where the Creator of the universe stoops to wash the dirty feet of His creation.

John 13:4-7 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. [5] After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. [6] Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? [7] Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

2. Becoming an Undershepherd.

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

- A shepherd personifies the heart of a servant leader.
- His chief ambition is the well being of his flock. "Not recognition or praise."
- We see the King of kings serving men, loving people, and living among those to whom He ministers.
- The Chief Shepherd of the Church is Christ Himself, and pastors serve as shepherds under the authority of Christ as they lead and feed the flock.

1 Peter 5:3-4 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. [4] And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

- The office of the deacon is a high and holy appointment, but the role of a deacon is one of lowliness and humility. Your purpose. Is the grand, eternal purpose of God, but your function is one of Christlike understatement.

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

- If you require recognition and privileges, your heart will be filled with pride and your God will become distant.

1 Peter 5:5-6 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. [6] Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

3. The ministry of a servant leader.

- This is a call to serve—to minister. Ministry involves work, labor, sometimes tedious work.
- Consider the great “kenosis” passage where Jesus completely emptied Himself and became obedient to the will of His Father:

Kenosis: noun: (in Christian theology) the renunciation of the divine nature, at least in part, by Christ in the Incarnation.

Philippians 2:1-8 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, [2] Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. [3] Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. [4] Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. [5] Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: [6] Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: [7] But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: [8] And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

4. The motive of a servant leader.

- Spiritual servants do not seek status; they seek the mind of Christ.
- Success is a moving target, but leadership is a fixed goal; His glory, His pleasure, and His purpose. (John3:30)
- This is the kind of leader God’s people will follow with a willing heart.

5. The methods of a servant leader.

- A servant leader will boldly proclaim the truth of God, but he will do so with a spirit of sincer love and humility.
- Stephen’s message in Acts 7 is a perfect example of this boldness and humility.

- A local church deacon must be able to be firm in biblical positions while at the same time exhibiting grace and demonstrating sincere love to those whom he serves.