

Serve God's Purpose Part 1

Work and Service

“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God,” (Acts 13:36 KJV)

From the life of David we learn lot of things applicable in our lives as servants of God. King David served God's purpose in his own generation by observing God's laws and ways. **Like David, let us serve God's purpose in our own generation by obeying the Lord and doing God's ways so we can live forever with God, and our ministry will be like David's – a man after God's own heart.** David in the time that he lived on earth and with the people that he lived with, he served God's purpose. This really should inspire us to do the same. God had a certain plan for David, and David worked with God to achieve that plan. **In the same way we are called to work and cooperate with God to achieve whatever the purpose God had planned for us and for our own generation.** David served the people who were around him, and contemporary to him. He served them according to God's will. He was not persuaded by any people's will and he did not comply in any people's plan, but he lived among the people and served them in accordance to the will of God. **In the same way we are called to work and cooperate with God to serve the people around us; to do things in accordance to God's will, and not in accordance to the people's will, plans or desire.**

King David served God's purpose so when we study his life we too will know how to fulfill God's purpose in our lives. King David's example will motivate us to do what is right and just; if we are mobilized even by some simple points in his life, later it will make much difference in us and in our service to God.

Basically, God has a plan and purpose in your life; He created you to achieve His purpose. ***“13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13 KJV)*** **Days may look alike but every day is integrated with certain things that God has prepared and has allowed for you to pass through. You may be facing different experiences and passing through undesirable circumstances, but don't be amazed or perplexed. Sometimes God allows certain events to come into your life so that His plan and purpose for you will finally be displayed and achieved.**

In your walk with God you may encounter some temptation, or you may fall into sin that takes you away from serving God's purpose. But like David you need to repent, come back to the Lord, do His will and be restored.

God who created you is the One who is calling you today for His purpose and for His glory. **Right now God has a purpose in placing you wherever you are – the country that you are in, the city where you live, the family that you belong, the work you are working, the church that you are a part of. All the people who are around you, whom you are meeting every now and then is all that God has purposed for you to be with to accomplish His ultimate purpose in your life.**

It is my prayer that this message in your hand will help you to see your ministry in a better way and from God's perspective; to encourage you and motivate you to go on and move, and

get fully involved in working with God. By doing so, your life while still on earth will be fruitful and meaningful.

“28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” (Ephesians 4:28 KJV) David worked faithfully in his secular job. David, before God called him as king and shepherd for Israel, he was working as a shepherd tending the sheep of his father. Did he work faithfully? Yes, and we can be sure of that by reading his story in ***1 Samuel Chapters 16 and 17.***

One day God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint David as king. Samuel invited Jesse and his sons for the sacrifice. David did not leave his job responsibility to go and eat; he waited while caring for the sheep, until Samuel called for him: ***“11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.” (1 Samuel 16:11 KJV)***

King Saul also knew that David was a shepherd and he was attending his job well, because he did mention when he sent for him. ***“19 Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.” (1 Samuel 16:19 KJV)*** Here, David was called for service to the king's palace. ***“20 And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. 21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer.” (1 Samuel 16:20-21 KJV)*** Part of David's time was with the king and the other time was still with his secular job. David did not leave his job tending the sheep of his father. Instead, he continued to do in addition to the service that he was doing for King Saul which was a part of his service to God. ***“15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.” (1 Samuel 17:15 KJV)***

Another evidence that David did not leave his secular job when God called him is when his father sent him to look after his three brothers who were in the battlefield; he was still doing his job well, tending the sheep. ***“17 And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp of thy brethren; 18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. 19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. 20 And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.” (1 Samuel 17:17-20 KJV)*** David here showed his concern to the secular work that he had when he was called to do God's service. David put another shepherd in his place to care for the sheep, not leaving his job as many workers do without discretion.

Your secular job is your responsibility before God. Even when God called you for God's service, you still need to attend well to your secular duty, because that is what God expects from you. You need to do your secular job well to avoid people criticism, especially those who are trying to find fault on you, as it happened to David when his brother accused him of negligence. ***“28 And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and***

with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.” (1 Samuel 17:28 KJV) David was excellent in his secular job and he achieved well. He was faithful to the task entrusted to him in protecting the sheep. He was skilled, able, and always trusting God while fulfilling duty as shepherd of his father’s flock. Thereafter, David offered himself to fight against Goliath. *“33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. 34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. 37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.” (1 Samuel 17:33-37 KJV)*

Like David, to anyone who is faithful and diligent in doing secular job entrusted to him by God, surely God will also call him or her to render service in His Kingdom. The following Scriptures will help us to realize clearly the importance of secular jobs entrusted to every worker:

A. *“19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3:19 KJV)* We are taught here that we need to work and labor for our daily food needs.

B. *“5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.” (Ephesians 6:5-8 KJV)* In verse 5 Apostle Paul recommended for the servants to obey their masters with fear and trembling as if they are obeying Christ. In verse 6 teaches to serve well not only when their masters eyes on them just to please men, but to do the work diligently as servants of Christ, and in serving you are doing the will of God, then you need to do it and serve with all your heart because according to verse 7 you are serving the Lord and not men. Knowing according to verse 8 that whatever good you do you will receive the same from the Lord, whether you are servants or not. So here all of us are under Christ and we are His servants so whatever we do we are doing the work for Christ, therefore we need to do that well so He will reward us.

C. *“22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” (Colossians 3:22-25 KJV)* Apostle Paul in verse 22 teaches that servants need to obey their masters, and they need to serve them well, not only when their eyes on them, as some they do; in front of their boss they work very nice to receive his favor, but at his absence they don’t care about the

quantity and quality of the work, such people or workers are men pleasers and they are not fearing God. To fear God is to serve well because you are aware that God is watching you. Therefore according to verse 23 then whatever you do then do it to the Lord, it means you need to do your best, because according to verse 24 with such kind of good service you are serving Christ and you will receive an inheritance in Heaven from the Lord. But if you do wrong and give no good service, according to verse 25 you will receive for the wrong that you are doing, whoever you are because in the Lord there is no favoritism.

D. *“9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; 10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” (Titus 2:9-10 KJV)* We are taught here not to steal from our places of work. Even if your salary is delayed you cannot steal things from the place that you are working. In addition don’t take things without the permission of your superiors.

E. *“6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; 8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. 10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. 13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. 14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.” (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 KJV)* Here we are commanded to work so we can eat and to set good example to others to follow the same. Also we are commanded to admonish and warn those who are not working to work in order to earn their living and not to take advantage of us or of others.

Some people they enter God’s service as an excuse for them to be away from doing any secular job. This is laziness and God does not approve such. Let us read more verses and meditate the truth of the Scripture about laziness, the bad effects of it and the bad ways of the lazy people:

A. *“30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; 31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. 32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. 33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.” (Proverbs 24:30-34 KJV)* Here we learn from this proverb that God had given us good things and good resources, and so if we will not use them wisely and diligently and waste time by sleeping, not working and keep postponing, then there will be no fruit, instead thorns and nettles and broken walls which indicate losses and damages because of laziness.

B. “6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6-8 KJV) Here we are called to take heed of the good example of the ant to pick up and collect things and store them so we can use them at proper time to meet our needs.

C. “4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.” (Proverbs 14:4 KJV) Here we are taught that only hard work can bring to us plentiful resources and the blessings of God.

D. “4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.” (Proverbs 13:4 KJV) Here we are taught that only diligent works can satisfy our needs.

E. “24 A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.” (Proverbs 19:24 KJV) Lazy people are not willing to help themselves even to meet their essential needs.

F. “13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.” (Proverbs 22:13 KJV) Lazy people have good stories, excuses and justifications to escape from hard work.

G. “13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. 14 As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed. 15 The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth. 16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.” (Proverbs 26: 13-16 KJV)

H. “26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 25:26 KJV) Here we are taught in the parable that lazy people will be judged for their sin of laziness, that God will take from them what he gave them and will end up in hell. Therefore we admonish such people to repent.

When God calls someone for service there will be a transition from secular job to God's service or God's service and secular job together. Later when the worker is approved by God, the Lord Himself makes a way that that particular worker will be in full-time ministry. When that happens we can also clearly see the Lord's provision for that certain worker.

Apostle Paul was also an example for us who maintained secular job while serving the Lord:

A. “1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; 2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla;

(because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. 3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.” (Acts 18:1-4 KJV) Paul in certain periods of his life was working and serving the Lord.

B. “34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.” (Acts 20:34 KJV) Paul was working and was using his work to support the ministry that he was doing. **Your work is important to support you and support your ministry as well as to build you a capital that will sustain you in your old age.**

Many whom God's call, they prematurely quit their secular job and their income without God's signal for His provision to sustain them and the ministry. Such God's workers with their wrong decisions suffer with their families and those who depend on them.

Your job is part of your ministry. You should be faithful and value your job as you love God and serve His purpose. God is the one who put you working where you are. You need to work faithfully in your work. When God wants you to be in full-time for God's service, He will surely take you out from there by His own way. And where God leads, He provides as well. It is good to desire to be full-time in God's service, but you should wait upon God to do it by Himself and in His time.

David, after his victory over Goliath, was taken permanently from tending the sheep and was placed in full-time God's service. We read that in **1 Samuel 18:2-5, “2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. 5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.”**

David did not resign or quit prematurely his job but was in line with God's leading and direction. He served God's purpose as he continued to be faithful to his job. The Word of God says, **“2 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.” (Proverbs 19:2 KJV)** So take heed, pray, and apply the message in your life in order for you to be an effective worker and to serve God's purpose.

My Dear and Beloved: Let us serve God's purpose as God's servants by living our life in full obedience to God and worthy for His call. Let us serve God's purpose as God's servants by serving others, helping them to begin to live according to God's will and purpose, and by giving them our very life's example. Let us not do our own will, but let us do the whole will of God.

Let us be diligent and work and labor in our secular jobs and in our ministries. Let us be faithful to God in being good steward in keeping our jobs and income and being faithful in the places of work that God had kept us. Let us be aware and away of the sin of laziness and the bad effects of it and let us admonish those who are lazy and not allow them to take advantage of us, and to push them to go and earn their living.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God in Heaven, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your clear word to me, and thank you for my secular job that you gave to me to provide for my needs and to support my ministry. Lord, thank you for all the rebukes and the admonitions that I received from the Scriptures*

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce your laziness and your escaping of doing your work and responsibilities. Confess your lack of patience and perseverance to keep your job. Confess and renounce doing your own will and start to do the will of God. Confess your lies and all the stories you are doing to take advantage of others. Confess and renounce your stealing from the place that you are working and your lack of submission to your boss. Confess your bad stewardship and your bad example to others. Confess and renounce your yoke with many non believers and friends, and confess your wasting of time on the Media, TV, games and on news. Confess your lack of reading of God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess your non willingness to serve God as His Word teaches us and your non willingness to suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____

Lord I commit myself to the teaching and to the principles that I received in this message. Lord I commit myself to wait upon you and obey all what you said to do your will and your purpose in my life and in the life of the people around me and under my care. Lord grant me success and clear direction in what I am about to do in serving you and in doing my secular job. Lord here I am coming back to you, willing to serve you and doing your will, restore me to the good plan that you have for me.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and come back to you willing to do your will and the good plan that you have for them in their lives. Lord use them to be a good example in their places of work to preach the gospel of Jesus by words and by good works. Lord provide all their needs and sustain their income and give them good health and strength to continue to go and serve you and do the ministry that you entrusted to them.

Lord, as your church, we commit ourselves to implement this teaching that we received from you in the life of our members and workers. Lord we commit ourselves to admonish those lazy among us to go and work and earn their living and set good example to others. Lord we commit ourselves to go forward reaching new people and places with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Serve God's Purpose Part 1. Work and Service. Acts 13:36. Philippians 2:13. Ephesians 4:28. 1 Samuel 16:11, 19-21. 1 Samuel 17:15, 17-20, 28, 33-37. Genesis 3:19. Ephesians 6:5-8.

Colossians 3:22-25. Titus 2:9-10. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. Proverbs 24:30-34. Proverbs 6:6-8. Proverbs 14:4. Proverbs 13:4. Proverbs 19:24. Proverbs 22:13. Proverbs 26: 13-16. Matthew 25:26-30. Acts 18:1-4. Acts 20:34. 1 Samuel 18:2-5. Proverbs 19:2.

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