

The Duties of the Priest Part 22

Worker's Attitude

The Instructions of Paul to Timothy and the Instructions of the LORD

In the previous message we started to delineate the Scriptures that speak about the right attitude and character of a worker that will determine a good outcome for the ministry. We spoke about:

A. ***The example of the Good Samaritan:***

B. ***The example of the men who carried the paralytic to the Lord:***

In this message we will continue to tackle others Scriptures that teach us about the good attitude and character of the worker:

C. ***The instructions of Paul to Timothy:*** In order that good character and attitude of a worker like Timothy be developed, let us consider the instructions of Apostle Paul to Timothy, his son in the faith. The passage, ***2 Timothy 2:1-26***, supplies us with good teachings and instructions that will help us to understand how our behavior and actions should be tailored to the need of achieving a successful and prosperous ministry.

"1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." Let the grace of God change our bad character and make us strong and enable us to cooperate with God. Let us not abuse the grace of God by living in sin, but use the grace to build an attitude and character that is fruitful and effective in Christ's service.

"2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." Let us be teachers who patiently teach others and do our best to feed the people under our care with God's Word; to continue to nurture them until they are strong and mature disciples, well-trained and able to teach others also.

"3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Let us accept challenges and suffering, standing firm and not finding a way of escape. God wants us to fight the good fight of faith as David had fought and overcome the giant Goliath.

"4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." Let us not be involved in civilian affairs like gossips, fights and quarrels, love of money and material things, involve in politics, parties, and going along with friends. All these should be away from our life and family.

"5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully." In God's service let us always follow His rules and abide in His Word. Let us depend on God's Word and on the Holy Spirit who dictates to us what to do. High quality is required in God's service.

"6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits." Let us be hard working, not lazy like a good farmer who perseveres amidst struggles until the fruit appears. In our service we will be the first one to enjoy the fruit in the form of material and spiritual

blessings. Likewise, as we serve the Lord let us pray that He opens our eyes to see the blessing of God upon our life and family.

"7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things." God's Word and the Holy Spirit will explain to us more and in detail how to serve God and produce fruit. Let us continue to read our Bible and pray to God, and He will enlighten us with more details about His good plans and how He wants us to serve HIM.

"8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:" Let us be ready with the message that suits the people whom we are reaching out to. We need to prepare a particular message that will be delivered to bring salvation and deliverance in the lives of the people. Let us be ready at all times. ***"2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine."*** (2 Timothy 4:2 KJV)

"9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound." The message of the Gospel is what we need to live in order to bring out the right model of a Christian and effective worker. This may cause us isolation, separation and even persecution, but we should continue to live in holiness. ***"12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."*** (2 Timothy 3:12 KJV)

"10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." We need to persevere in suffering, persecution, isolation, or whatever unfavorable circumstances knowing that God's Word needs to be preached to all nations and tongues in order for people to be saved.

"11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:" When we are willing to lose our life for the sake of Christ we will truly live with HIM. ***"39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."*** (Matthew 10:39 KJV)

"12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:" As we endure the hardship that comes with the task, we will receive authority from the LORD, but if we quit He will disown us.

"13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." At this point, let us kneel down and ask God for forgiveness in moments that we were unfaithful to Him. Let us commit ourselves once again to serve Him. True repentance means restoration.

"14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers." Again we are cautioned not to quarrel. Let us avoid controversies about words, ***"9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."*** (Titus 3:9 KJV)

"15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." In all occasions, God has the Word. Let us know the Bible well and remember the events and Scriptures that fit each and every situation. Let us also learn skills in presenting facts that describe the truth. Let us always remember to give the

practical way of how to live the truth to become a true Christian and how to live holy for the people who hear the message.

“16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”

Let us always be careful and alert so as to not go and fall in the trap of arguing with false teachers. ***“17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;”*** As they were around Paul and Timothy they will be also be around us. So we must avoid them at all cost. Avoid those ***“18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”*** Their false teaching and belief is the reason that they left the Church of God. ***“18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.” (1 John 2:18-19 KJV)*** Their departure is a sign that they are not the true people of God. So we do not need to defend ourselves but continue to reach others with the Gospel and to help them receive salvation and blessings through the undiluted Word of God.

“19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” This is how we will know the true people of God. They will not continue to sin, but be willing to repent and turn away from doing evil.

“20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.” Let us choose to be a noble vessel in order to be used for the noble purposes of God. Mistakes are sins and our repentance will bring us back to our royal priestly position to be more fruitful and ready for noble tasks.

“21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.” Let us cleanse ourselves from ignoble things and habits like laziness, telling lies and alibis, watching videos, godless chatting and listening to friend's gossips, love of money and prestige, attending parties, bitterness, unforgiveness, grumbling, complaining, anger, and other ungodly character so that we do not be like a disposable vessel but a noble one, useful and important in the hand of the Master.

“22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” Avoid the impulsive evil desires of youth and be away from wrong company, anger, filthy language and draw near to God by being with the right people of the LORD. Let us be discerning and avoid wrong company because they will corrupt us. ***“33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” (1 Corinthians 15:33 KJV)***

“23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.” Let us totally avoid arguing.

“24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,” We who serve the LORD should not quarrel or involve in fights. Here we learn how to handle the people who oppose us:

a. We must not strive with them. We need not fight back even to someone who wrongs us.

b. We must be gentle to all men: We must ask God to give us wisdom about how to be kind to those who are bad to us. ***“21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:” (Proverbs 25:21 KJV)***

c. We must be able to teach: ***“25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”*** We must ask God to give us wisdom and skill how to teach the people with whom we are struggling. We must teach by Word and deed as much as tolerable.

d. We must not be patient: We must keep our hearts clean and free from anger. We must be patient and feel sorry for those who sin until they are aware of their sins, ***“26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”***

D. The Instructions of the LORD: Jesus said, ***“16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16 KJV)*** From these three animals that the Lord mentioned, we learn good character and attitude that will build us to be fruitful and effective ministers in the mission field:

1. Sheep: They are humble and meek. Humility will enable us to accept suffering including humiliation, insult, and persecution.

2. Serpents: They are smart, wise and perceptive. The wisdom of God spares us troubles and helps us to handle people and circumstances in a proper way.

3. Doves: They are gentle and spotless. Being calm, blameless and to keep our heart and hand clean and innocent, without holding a grudge even against those who harm us, will assure us favor and victory.

My Dear and Beloved: The minister's good character, attitude and behavior determine the outcome of his ministry and service unto God. Come now to God and be willing to repent from all your bad attitudes and characters and be willing to live and serve God according to the teaching that we had received in this message so that your ministry will be fruitful and effective to bring the gospel of Jesus and the Word of God to others.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that I received in this message that is guiding me about the important attitudes that I should cultivate in my life and ministry to be effective and fruitful minister of yours to the people.

Lord, thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes, and the admonishments that I received from you today.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your worldliness and your love for the worldly things and involving yourself in gossips, quarrels, fights, arguments, telling lies, cheating. Confess and renounce your impatience, anger, grudge, bitterness, unforgiveness, and revenge. Confess and renounce your grumbling, frustration, discouragement, and the rest of the bad attitudes. Confess and renounce your lack of reading God's Word and life of prayer. Lord I repent, forgive me the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to repent of all my bad attitudes and characters and to cultivate more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life; love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, perseverance and self-control so people will see Christ in my life and to start to do the good works that you ordained for me to do for you. Lord I am willing to forgive the following people who did bad to me _____. Lord give me wisdom and understanding how to handle those who oppose me and how to behave with them. Lord, I need your grace to have the right attitude and character that will enable me to effectively present your Word in my life to others, and to serve you in a more fruitful way. Lord Help me, to do this

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to adopt the good characters and the attitudes that we learned in this message. Lord bless them and lead them step by step to improve in their service and ministry. Lord protect them and continue to provide their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to train new workers and send them into the mission field with good characters and attitudes that they will go and serve people of various ethnic groups and backgrounds and present the gospel of Jesus and the Word of God to them. Lord we pray that you will continue to protect us and to provide to us our needs so we will continue to serve you. Lord refills us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts so that we continue to serve you. Lord lead us to evangelize, making new disciples, train new workers and plant new 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.

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