

PREPARATION FOR LEADERSHIP #2 "Servanthood"

Exodus 24:13

Looking at Joshua's preparation for leadership; The process of becoming a man of God. Important step:

I. THE PROBLEM OF SERVICE

A. Mistaken ideas about entering our destiny

1. **Time:** I have to be chosen – I've been around a long time; Joshua was there from the beginning
 - a. This often affects men before being chosen for ministry:
 1. Resenting those who are chosen
 2. Resenting headship for not recognizing their true value
2. **Attention:** Our generation equates attention or fame with success Facebook/Selfies/Websites
 - a. Waiting for attention
 - b. Striving to be noticed/impress the Pastor

B. This affects our attitudes towards work

1. **We're not interested in work – just attention:** Give me the microphone/give me the title
 - a. We can despise work/tasks/details
2. **Once we gain any attention/position – we develop an attitude about work/tasks**
 - a. I'm above that – I'm way more important than loading/unloading/cleaning

C. These attitudes are totally self-centered

1. Life/ministry/the church/ministry is all about me! My ego/my ambition
2. This usually causes conflicts: *Luke 9:46* An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest.

II. THE PROCESS OF SERVICE

A. The process of ministry always involves servanthood

1. Here is the first identification/title of Joshua (no title when chosen as spy or to lead in battle Ex 17)
 - a. *Exodus 24:13* And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.
 1. Minister: To wait upon, to serve, to contribute to ...it speaks of one standing close by ready for orders.
 - b. 1st identification: Because servanthood is important to God
 1. *Matt 20:26-27* Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.²⁷ And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--
 - a. Servant: One you hire to do menial service – whatever needed doing
 - b. Slave: One who does the will of another

B. 3 elements of true service

1. **Finding a need and meeting it:**
 - a. *John 13:4-5* So during the meal Jesus stood up and took off his outer clothing. Taking a towel, he wrapped it around his waist.⁵ Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash the followers' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
 1. There is an incredible amount of work that needs to get done
2. **Doing things for the benefit of others:** Moses' minister
 - a. How can I help/can I bless this person?
 - b. My job is to make Pastor Mitchell's job easier!
3. **Not being concerned with recognition:**
 - a. Servants/slaves didn't perform for an audience – or for praise: Ladies & gentlemen the toilets are clean!

C. Servanthood is a test!

1. **A test of vision:** The ability to see needs - What needs doing? Who needs help? What is not getting done?
 - a. That's what ministry is: Identifying needs in the church/the Fellowship
 1. If you can't identify any area of need now – you probably won't be able to later!
2. **A test of humility:** We need to be able to reign in our egos/adjust our egos
 - a. Joshua seemed to go down in importance: Spy (1 of 12) Battle-commander...to servant?
 1. Can you function without recognition?
 2. Can you help someone else succeed?
 3. Are you still able to serve?

III. THE POWER OF SERVICE

A. Servanthood is powerful!

1. God's will is accomplished by servants

- a. Imagine what a church would be if everyone had a servant mindset!
 1. Needs are met
 2. People are blessed
 3. Conflict is lessened
 - a. Harry S Truman "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."
- b. God is pleased with this attitude: He blesses it!
 1. *Acts 6:7* And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

2. God can choose servants for larger tasks: Because they can be trusted

- a. *Luke 16:10* He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.
 1. Trusted to see needs
 2. Trusted to put other people first
- b. Kevin Foley: Made concert director in 1979 – knew nothing about music equipment. 2 guys who had been there longer would show up/help get things together. Both men eventually became Pastors – one is now a leader.