

Light and Life

To be a Christian is to be a servant. Romans 6 explains that all souls are slaves to something – whether we are slaves to sinful desires or slaves of righteousness in service to God. Christians should no longer be consumed with fulfilling their own desires, but in advancing the cause of their Master.

In the parable of the talents (Mt. 25), the master left his goods in the hands of three servants. To one he gave five talents, to another he gave two, and to a third he gave one. The first two servants put their talents to work and doubled their value before the return of the master. The third servant buried his talent. Upon the return of the master, the third servant was described as “wicked and lazy” and an “unprofitable servant” and was thrown into outer darkness.

The lesson of the parable is clear: servants of the Lord are expected to

I Want to Be A Worker

work! Servanthood is not a passive lifestyle. The servants in the parable were not given explicit commands as to what to do with the talents they were to steward. Yet, they were aware of the character of their lord; that he was a “hard man, reaping where he had not sown, and gathering where he had not scattered seed” (Mt. 25:24).

The two profitable servants didn’t need explicit orders on how to be profitable. Their attitudes were driven to work and to advance the wealth of the master. Their desires were to be the best servants they could be “according to their ability” (Mt. 25:15).

When the master returned, the lazy servant offered back the same amount he was given to steward: “Look there you have what is yours” (Mt. 25:25). This is reflective of what seems to be the

(continued)

default attitude of many: “I have done enough”.

Teachers know that when a student asks how many pages an essay must be, what the student really wants to know is how little work they can get away with. What is enough? When Jesus called His apostles, He warned them of the cost of following Him. Included in this discourse is one of the most humbling statements in the Bible: “It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master” (Mt. 10:25).

Jesus did not have the attitude of wanting to do the bare minimum that was required of Him, but rather emptied Himself completely in service to those who were yet His enemies (Rom. 5:6-8). Though He was equal with God, He “made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men... He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:7-8).

This pattern of humility and service is part of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Jesus taught, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Mt. 15:24). To follow Jesus, one must deny their own will, put that will to death, and replace it with God’s will. Following Jesus requires us to follow His pattern of servanthood.

Jesus taught very plainly that “even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mk 10:45). “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (I Jn 3:16). John used this comparison to develop the idea that love isn’t about talking or feeling. It’s about deed and truth (18).

An “unprofitable, wicked and lazy servant” cannot also be a disciple of Christ. One cannot follow Him without a desire to work and to serve, “each according to his ability.” So, let’s get to work!

- Sam Bunyard

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

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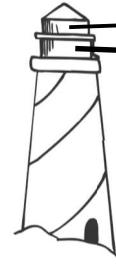
**Don't just talk about
God – walk with Him.**

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burlison
Scott Hale
Joel Heiligenthal
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
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DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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The Dopamine Rush

Dopamine is an important chemical produced in the body which affects, among other things, our mood and motivation. It is often associated with feelings of pleasure. When we do those things that are pleasing to us, dopamine levels in the body are increased – an automatic reward. So, we tend to seek out those behaviors.

Not surprisingly, this has implications for our relationship with God. When pleasure and reward become a primary focus in our lives (think sex, money, prestige), then serving God and others – and making sacrifices – become less important. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 Jn 2:15-17)

undoubtedly trigger dopamine responses in most people – which makes temptation the alluring thing that it is (the “passing pleasures of sin”, He 11:25, re. Moses).

Sex is not inherently sinful – if confined to the marriage relationship (He 13:4). Money is not sinful in itself, until it becomes our god (1 Ti 6:10). Popularity is not always wrong unless we are willing to sacrifice truth for it (2 Ti 4:3-4). When the ‘dopamine rush’ overrides what is right, like a buck in rut, bad things can happen.

Moses chose self-sacrifice over dopamine – and so should we. - *WKing*

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.
Sick: Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, Js Swim, Tricia Deen
Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis
Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

FIRST SUNDAY SINGING – This evening will be our monthly singing.
Song leaders come prepared to lead – everybody else, to sing!

SENTENCE SERMON – If you love Jesus, don't honk – just do what He says! (Jn 14:15)