

## “Servanthood” – Serving God

### Acts 13:16-23

<sup>16</sup> Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! <sup>17</sup> The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; <sup>18</sup> for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; <sup>19</sup> and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. <sup>20</sup> All this took about 450 years.

“After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. <sup>21</sup> Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. <sup>22</sup> After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’

<sup>23</sup> “From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.

How would you like to be remembered 40 years from now or 450 years from now?

**We have an excellent example to follow.** The Bible says that David followed God with all his heart (Acts 13:22-23). At the core of everything he did was a desire to exalt the Lord.

**Josh 24:15** ends with .... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

**How can we know if we are serving or following God with all our heart? (5 ways)**

**1. Our life’s priority is our personal relationship with the Lord.** A person after God’s heart makes his or her relationship with Him a top priority.

Ps. 119:15-16 <sup>15</sup> I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. <sup>16</sup> I delight in your decrees;  
I will not neglect your word.

### **Ps 105 Psalm 105**

<sup>1</sup> Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;  
make known among the nations what he has done.

- <sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praise to him;  
tell of all his wonderful acts.
- <sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- <sup>4</sup> Look to the LORD and his strength;  
seek his face always.
- <sup>5</sup> Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
- <sup>6</sup> you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,  
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.
- <sup>7</sup> He is the LORD our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.
- <sup>8</sup> He remembers his covenant forever,  
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,
- <sup>9</sup> the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac.
- <sup>10</sup> He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:
- <sup>11</sup> “To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as the portion you will inherit.”
- <sup>12</sup> When they were but few in number,  
few indeed, and strangers in it,
- <sup>13</sup> they wandered from nation to nation,  
from one kingdom to another.
- <sup>14</sup> He allowed no one to oppress them;  
for their sake he rebuked kings:
- <sup>15</sup> “Do not touch my anointed ones;  
do my prophets no harm.”
- <sup>16</sup> He called down famine on the land  
and destroyed all their supplies of food;
- <sup>17</sup> and he sent a man before them—  
Joseph, sold as a slave.
- <sup>18</sup> They bruised his feet with shackles,  
his neck was put in irons,
- <sup>19</sup> till what he foretold came to pass,  
till the word of the LORD proved him true.
- <sup>20</sup> The king sent and released him,  
the ruler of peoples set him free.
- <sup>21</sup> He made him master of his household,  
ruler over all he possessed,
- <sup>22</sup> to instruct his princes as he pleased  
and teach his elders wisdom.

<sup>23</sup> Then Israel entered Egypt;  
Jacob resided as a foreigner in the land of Ham.  
<sup>24</sup> The LORD made his people very fruitful;  
he made them too numerous for their foes,  
<sup>25</sup> whose hearts he turned to hate his people,  
to conspire against his servants.  
<sup>26</sup> He sent Moses his servant,  
and Aaron, whom he had chosen.  
<sup>27</sup> They performed his signs among them,  
his wonders in the land of Ham.  
<sup>28</sup> He sent darkness and made the land dark—  
for had they not rebelled against his words?  
<sup>29</sup> He turned their waters into blood,  
causing their fish to die.  
<sup>30</sup> Their land teemed with frogs,  
which went up into the bedrooms of their rulers.  
<sup>31</sup> He spoke, and there came swarms of flies,  
and gnats throughout their country.  
<sup>32</sup> He turned their rain into hail,  
with lightning throughout their land;  
<sup>33</sup> he struck down their vines and fig trees  
and shattered the trees of their country.  
<sup>34</sup> He spoke, and the locusts came,  
grasshoppers without number;  
<sup>35</sup> they ate up every green thing in their land,  
ate up the produce of their soil.  
<sup>36</sup> Then he struck down all the firstborn in their land,  
the firstfruits of all their manhood.  
<sup>37</sup> He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold,  
and from among their tribes no one faltered.  
<sup>38</sup> Egypt was glad when they left,  
because dread of Israel had fallen on them.  
  
<sup>39</sup> He spread out a cloud as a covering,  
and a fire to give light at night.  
<sup>40</sup> They asked, and he brought them quail;  
he fed them well with the bread of heaven.  
<sup>41</sup> He opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed like a river in the desert.  
  
<sup>42</sup> For he remembered his holy promise  
given to his servant Abraham.  
<sup>43</sup> He brought out his people with rejoicing,  
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;  
<sup>44</sup> he gave them the lands of the nations,  
and they fell heir to what others had toiled for—

<sup>45</sup> that they might keep his precepts  
and observe his laws.

Praise the LORD

David often sought God in prayer for strength, wisdom, and the Father's wonderful presence.

Ps. 5:3 In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

Ps 63:6-8 <sup>6</sup> On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. <sup>8</sup> I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

## **2. How can we know if we are following God? We place our trust in the Lord when facing trials and difficulties.**

1 Sam. 17:45-46 - <sup>45</sup> David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

## **3. How can we know if we are following God? We have a strong, passionate desire to obey God.**

Yet he preferred to be obedient to God than to be the king, 1 Sam. 24:6 <sup>-6</sup> He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD."

## **4. How can we know if we are following God? We demonstrate a spirit of humility.**

Yet in 2 Samuel 7:18, David said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that You have brought me this far?"

## **5. How can we know if we are following God? We demonstrate the spirit of a servant.**

**Define servant:** To work for or be subject to another.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** -<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### **Why does God want us to serve Him?**

- He uses us to carry out His work here on earth.
  - For example, Christ commanded us to share the gospel Matt. 28:18-19 - <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- **Why does God want us to serve Him?** He uses our situations to help us grow up.
- **Serving Him teaches us to bring glory and honor to Him.**
  - If we serve Him in order to get glory, acclaim, approval, or acceptance, then we've already received all the reward we're going to get.
  - God uses our failure to draw us closer to Him. Don't wait until you can serve Him perfectly, and don't let fear of failure keep you from obeying Him.

### **God won't stop using you just because you made a mistake.**

- Luke 22:31. <sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to **sift** all of you as wheat. God allows Satan to sift us because there are spiritual realities that we can learn only through difficulty and hardship.
- **No matter how you sinned, God can use you again if you repent.**
  - **Sifting defined:** Is the process of removing the inedible parts of the wheat from the part used to make flour. When the mixture was thrown into the air, the wheat would fall to the ground and the chaff would fly away.

### **Other words that describe the sifting process?**

- **Shake**

- **Shock**
  - Romans 8:28 - <sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
- **Silent**
- **Searching**
- **Separating**
- **Sterilizing**
  - If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive them, 1 John 1:9 -  
<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.