



7 Things Every Christian Should Know about Kingdom Service

1. Not for Everyone

Does it surprise you to learn that Kingdom Service is not for every Christian?

Jesus tells his apostles in Matthew 28:19-20, to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen".

He wants every Christian to be a disciple, to learn and follow His teachings. This, is for everyone.

In James 3:1, we were told, "Be not many of you teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment". Clearly, Kingdom Service is not for everyone.

2. Not of this World

Secondly, we need to be clear that Kingdom Service is like nothing of this world. Paul pleads with us in Romans 12:2, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God".

Some Christians think nothing of adopting things of this world, foolishly thinking that we will please God and improve our service to Him. On the surface, there is nothing wrong with it. But Kingdom Service is not based on giving each participant a vote, regardless of their spiritual maturity, nor it is about insisting on our way, pushing our agenda and lobbying for our interest. Kingdom Service is about setting the example, influence, consensus, giving way to one another and seeking God's will.

Indeed, Jesus tells us in John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence". Be sure of this: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" - John 15:19.

3. A New Mindset

There is nothing that we have learned from the world that will prepare us for Kingdom Service. In fact, unless we shed off the expertise and enterprise that we learn from the world, these will unfit us for Kingdom Service. Jesus puts it this way in Matthew 18:3, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven".

In making this point, the apostle Paul waxed eloquent in Philippians 3:4-8, saying "Though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh: if any other man thinketh to have confidence in the flesh, I yet more: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; as touching zeal, persecuting the church; as touching the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless. Howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ".

All of Paul's accomplishments, even in the religious enterprise was considered as trash (another version renders the word, "dung"), which has no advantage in his desire to serve God.

Proverbs 3:5-6 puts Kingdom Service in the correct perspective - "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths".

4. It is a Spiritual Warfare

Make no mistake about it, Ephesians 6:12 tells us that in Kingdom Service, "For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly places".

The only way to succeed is to go alongside Jesus and "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" - Matthew 11:29-30.

Indeed as 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 puts it, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ".

5. Faith is the Victory

Let us be clear that in Kingdom Service "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" - Hebrews 11:6.

Ever once so often at our business meetings, a member will remind us of the balance sheet and caution us not to go out in a limb. Yet, standing on the promises of God and His providence is so key to Kingdom Service, that in the absence of faith, we will never ever launch out in the deep and see the glory of God.

Indeed, to make any headway in Kingdom Service, "We walk by faith, not by sight" - Hebrews 11:6.

6. Thy Will, Not Mine

I love the advice that the high priest gave to young Samuel in 1 Samuel 3:9, "Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place". I would to God that every member at PP would repeat these words.

In Kingdom Service, we must realise that we cannot hope to succeed by doing our will. Like Jesus in John 5:30, we need to say, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me".

It is a good practice in Kingdom Service for godly men who wants to do God's will to come together and work in consensus. When we find ourselves pushing an agenda, attempting for the church to adopt our resolution, we have crossed the line from Kingdom Service to running our own little kingdom. Proverbs 24:6 tells us "For by wise guidance thou shalt make thy war; And in the multitude of counsellors there is safety".

7. Faithful unto death

There is no greater work than Kingdom Service. It is work every effort, heartache and sacrifice. Kingdom servants do not give up, will not give up and will not even consider giving up. Everything we do, we do it for God and His glory.

Those who give up, fail to consider their service is for the glory of God and may have other ulterior motives. 2 Timothy 4:10 gives us an example, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica".

Indeed as Hebrews 5:14 tells us, it is only through keeping on through all situations that we grow and excel in Kingdom Service - "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil".

Revelation 2:10 urges us to "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life". To give up even on the last mile of the race, is to lose everything.

Application

I started this lesson by saying that Kingdom Service is not for everybody. It is easy for a Christian to avoid this calling, because like Moses, we can conjure a multitude of excuses for doing so.

I want you to consider the words of Esther 4:14 and apply it personally to yourself in regard to Kingdom Service - "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Why are you a Christian? Why did God make sure that someone brings you the gospel? Indeed, who knows that God has brought you into His Kingdom at such a time as this to serve Him? Ponder on this and do not dismiss it too quickly.

The Bible states in 1 Corinthians 12:28, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, divers kinds of tongues..." God has also set some in the church today for Kingdom Service. Without these people, the church will be like sheep without shepherds. How will you answer? God is calling.

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