

Equipped to Serve:

John 13:1-17

October 29, 2017

For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

John 13:15-17

Knowing and doing are two different things!!!!

We want a special revelation from God, but already have more in God's Word than what we are doing now.

"I have discovered that those who are always looking for a bigger cup never have enough, whereas those who let it overflow to others can't give it away fast enough". ~ **Lorne Jackson**

I am to serve because:

1) It has been modeled.

My Master (Lord) was and is a servant.

Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

John 13:16

He healed, ministered, listened, preached, and died.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many

Mark 10:45

2) God commands it.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Mark 16:15-16

But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Matthew 23:11

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:1

3) It is a matter of obedience.

If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

John 12:26

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 John 5:2-4

4) Should come as an overflow.

Serving God's Church in the four walls, outside the four walls and through direction of the Holy Spirit.

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died.

2 Corinthians 5:14

5) I am also blessed.

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35

Right Attitude + Right Motive = Right Heart

The Gift of Mercy – Luke 10:3-37 and Romans 12:8

The special attribute given by God's Spirit to members of the Body of Christ to feel the hurt of others and genuinely express sympathy and provide comfort for those people."

~ **JayMcSwain Finding Your Place In Life And Ministry**.

Often heavy on forgiveness, compassion, pity and kindness.

Balancer of the strong and aggressive gifts.

Sympathy is feeling **for** others, empathy is feeling **with** others.

People orientated.

Will provide a shoulder to cry on and most always a good listener.

The Gift of Pastor/ Shepherd – 1 Peter 5:1-4 and Ephesians 4:11-14

“To guide, protect, nurture and feed a group of believers into growing spirituality.” ~ **Jay McSwain**

Not just a position but of function.

Used 17 times, translated Pastor once and Shepard the others, doesn't have be a “Pastor” to have this gift. Office of Pastors and Elders and then Shepherds.

“A person with this spiritual gift has the ability to personally lead, nourish, protect, and care for the needs of a flock of believers.”

Help others grow and learn, hurt and rejoice,

The Gift of Prophecy – Romans 12:6 and Acts 15:32

“To proclaim the Word of God boldly and with confidence.” ~ **Jay McSwain**

Compelled to speak the Word of God.

Speaks out without apology and calls people to get right before the Lord (is often black and white). Not the author of the message, only the deliverer.

At their heart is very loving though may come across differently

The Gift of Service – Acts 9:36-42 and Romans 12:7

“To identify, assist, and support ministries within the body thereby allowing those ministries to effectively accomplish their desired results.” ~ **Jay McSwain**

Sees a need and goes and meets it and is often unseen (doesn't want credit per se)

The Gift of Teaching – Acts 18:24-28 and Romans 12:7

“To communicate Biblical truths in a manner through which others can learn and understand these Biblical truths.” ~ **Jay McSwain**

“The ability to clearly explain and effectively apply the truths of God's Word so that others will learn. This requires capacity to accurately interpret scripture, engage in necessary research, and organize the results in a way that is easily communicated.”¹

Takes knowledge and disseminate it in such a way that others can learn.

The Gift of Wisdom – Exodus 18:13-27

“To understand and discern Biblical truths and apply these truths.” ~ **Jay McSwain**

“The ability to apply the principles of the Word of God in a practical way to specific situations and to recommend the best course of action at the best time. The exercise of this gift skillfully distills insight and discernment into excellent advice.”²

Wisdom is a skill in Godly living.

Takes the Scripture and makes an intelligent application to a life situation.

Sounds judgement.

Prayer Focus:

-What is my gift?

-Am I serving (using my gift), if not what not? (PLACE)

-If I am serving, am I serving where God wants me and with the right attitude?

¹ www.bible.org

² ibid