

Called To Serve

Acts 6:1-6 (NIV)

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews^[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

I. The Deacons who were selected were called to serve

The word Deacon means a servant.

Many people like the prestige of being a leader, but don't dare call them a servant.

Matthew 23:1-7 (CEV) says, "Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:² *The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law are experts in the Law of Moses.*³ *So obey everything they teach you, but don't do as they do. After all, they say one thing and do something else.*⁴ *They pile heavy burdens on people's shoulders and won't lift a finger to help.*⁵ ***Everything they do is just to show off in front of others.*** *They even make a big show of wearing Scripture verses on their foreheads and arms, and they wear big tassels^[a] for everyone to see.*⁶ *They love the best seats at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues.*⁷ *And when they are in the market, they like to have people greet them as their teachers."*

However, the greatest title one can ever be called in the Kingdom of God is a servant.

Consider *Joshua 1:1*, *Romans 1:1*, and *Matthew 25:21*

II. All of us are called to serve

Jesus showed us that true leadership is about serving the people, not expecting to be served by them.

Consider *John 13:1-17*

As a servant, we ought to use our unique gifts to serve.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT) says, “*God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*”

When we come to serve, we should do so with a good attitude.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NLT) says, “*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ²⁴ Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.*”

III. As servants, we must remain ready to serve God’s people

To be ready means to have a genuine desire to serve God’s people.

Acts 9:36 (GNT) says, “*In Joppa there was a woman named Tabitha, who was a believer. (Her name in Greek is Dorcas, meaning “a deer.”) She spent all her time doing good and helping the poor.*”

To be ready also means to be actively looking for opportunities to serve God’s people.

2 Samuel 9:1 says, “*One day David asked, “Is anyone in Saul’s family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan’s sake?”*”

To be ready means to be available when called upon to serve God’s people.

Isaiah 6:8 (NIV) says, “*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*”

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