

“Deacons of Christ”

Exodus 18

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10 “As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Introduction:

I would like to begin today with a list of service items that we must do around here on a continual basis for our work to get done.

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. Education | 27. Community Outreach | 49. Snow Shoveling |
| 2. Grounds | 28. Bible Camp | 50. Class teachers |
| 3. Building maintenance | 29. Library | 51. Preparing kids for Scripture reading |
| 4. Visitation | 30. Admin | 52. Wednesday Devos |
| 5. Worship arrangements | -Sexual abuse | 53. Song leaders |
| 6. Youth Rally's | -Insurance | 54. Table talks |
| 7. Finance (Bookkeeper) | -Corporation | 55. Shepherding |
| 8. Missions | -Pay bills | 56. Prayer leaders |
| 9. World Bible School | -Sort mail | 57. Art work |
| 10. Leadership training | 31. Spiritual Growth | 58. Cooking for sick |
| 11. Van Maintenance | 32. Preaching | 59. Shoulders to cry on |
| 12. Web Master | 33. Attendance | 60. Locking up building |
| 13. Sound and video | 34. Women's Ministry | 61. Postal mailings |
| 14. Fellowship | 35. Hospital visits | 62. Resolving problems |
| 15. Sick & shut ins | 36. Taking out the trash | 63. Funerals |
| 16. Benevolence | 37. Secretary work | 64. Baptisms |
| 17. Bulletin | 38. Making unleavened Bread | 65. Weddings |
| 18. Phone Tree | 39. Preparing Lord's Supper | 66. VBS |
| 19. Printing | 40. Sending flowers | 67. Small groups |
| 20. Directory | 41. Power Point Anouc. | 68. |
| 21. Janitorial / cleaning | 42. Widow care | |
| 22. Taping Sermons | 43. Elderly care | |
| 23. Orientation (New) | 44. Evangelism | |
| 24. Involvement | 45. Encouragement | |
| 25. Transportation | 46. Nursery work | |
| 26. VBS | 47. Singles work | |
| | 48. Newel Post | |

I am sure glad that we have many folks helping out with all these things,....
Can you imagine if only one or a few people were trying to get all these things done?

We actually have an example of this in the scripture.
In Exodus Chapter 18, Moses was trying to do it all and his father-in-law Jethro told him in verse 18 that this wasn't good for him or Israel.....both would wear out!

SLED ILLUSTRATION:

Have David 175# get into a plastic snow sled and have Caden who is two years old and probably 25# try to pull David in the sled down the isle. He can't do it.

Now have all the children come and use a longer rope and they can do it together.

-You've heard the adage that many hands make the work lighter.

-SO, WE MUST CONTINUE TO SHARE THE LOAD.

Transitional Statement: Church, If your not involved in service to the Lord and you would like to be come see me or one of the elders or a deacon after church and we will take your name and get you something to do, so you to can help share the load.
SERVICE IS THE KEY WORD THIS MORNING!

Lesson:

I. Servant in (NT) is the Greek word Diakonos

- Basically means: One who executes the commands of another, a servant, attendant, minister:
- Mentioned 30 times in the New Testament

II. Jesus sets a Service Example

-John 13:1-15 “Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2 During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4 got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. 5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." 8 Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, " If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." 10 Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean." 12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. 14 "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”

- Made time
- Didn't qualify the person he was serving...Judas
- Took the position of humility
- Service is commanded by example from our Lord

III. The truth is, Some folks just Want to be Served

-What can I get out of this mentality

-Matthew 20:20-28 “Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. 21 And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left.” 22 But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They said to Him, “We are able.” 23 He said to them, “My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.” 24 And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.””

-As a place of importance and authority

-You know the lesser should serve the greater

-Like rulers of the Gentiles who Lord it over them

-But here, Greatness is equated to service

-To be first, Jesus says, you must become a slave

* Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

*Its about giving

IV. God has made Divisions of Service

-In our list we mentioned earlier, how do we figure out who does what

-There are scriptural divisions of work given to us in scripture.

-Some things are general in nature and anyone of us can do

-Some things require shepherding and spiritual oversight and God has given those things for the elders to do.

*And then there is the work of Deacons

-What do the Deacons do?.....

-What does the bible teach us about deacons?

-Well lets go Back to the word Diakonos which we said earlier was mentioned 30 times in NT and means servant.

-On two occasions Diakonos is translated Deacon.....Why?

-Phil 1:1 & 1 Tim 3

-For the answer we are going to go to: Acts 6:1-6

-Acts 6:1-6 “Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. 2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.”

-Responsibilities of these men included:

- Leading a team
- Authority to spend church funds
- Spiritual ability to solve problems, sometimes in a public setting.
- Physical labor
- Assigned to men

- This is what Deacons are:

- They are Servants in positions of leadership

-Set forth here by God in the same manner as other leaders of the church, by

- Specific work is given
- Qualification are given
- An appointment is made

V. Currently we have four Deacons

- Ron BurkEducation
- Keith Kearns.....Grounds
- Russ Dabney.....Building
- Jay Keller.....Visitation

- *These men are appointed to take the leadership responsibility in these areas.
- *They can use all the volunteers they can get ...because they can't do it alone.
- *These men do a great job and we thank each and every one of you

Conclusion:

- We are a growing church, working hard for the Lord and with that comes many areas of service for which we need additional deacons.
- The Elders are going to ask us here in the next week or so to select men who we believe are qualified to serve as Deacons.
- Church lets be praying about these selection
- With Service in mind, have you been hooked up in working for the Lord.....is Is your heart like the masters heart....SERVANT?
- Lets all be mindful that each of our areas of service are important and work at them with all our hearts.
- John 12:26 “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”