

## Attitude #10 . . . Loving Servant

**Matthew 5:13-16** Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth; . . . You are the light of the world . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

**As a new creation in Christ, I share with others the Good News of a risen Savior who makes His people whole.**

We read in **1 Corinthians 10:31** that the sole purpose of man is to glorify God in all that he does. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** - *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.* There are many ways we can accomplish this responsibility. God will work with us, in us and through us in order that we might glorify Him. In other words, He will teach us how to succeed in what He expects us to do. To glorify God means more than simply not doing everything He does not want us to do. It also involves doing and accomplishing the will and purpose that God created us for.

Life is movement and action and reveals itself in what it accomplishes and/or does not accomplish. Our lives, if we are glorifying God, are made up of the fulfillment of opportunities and assignments that have been placed before us by God. The nature and quality of the service we do for God will depend upon the life of God in us. As we are nourished and growing spiritually, the life of God in us will be displayed through us by acts of obedience and service. Jesus said,

**John 15:8** - **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

The previous verse clearly tells us how we are to glorify God. Yes, it does include our integrity, character, and godly living, these are the "expressions," or as Paul called them, the "fruits" of the Christian life. However, that is only part of the way that we glorify God with our lives. Jesus said, that when we "**bear much fruit**," God is glorified. When we are making an impact for the Kingdom of God and sharing and influencing people to go to heaven and serve here, we are being "fruit bearing Christians." There is a great deal of religious work with all its external activities, much of which is the outcome of human effort; all for a worthy cause but not for the best cause. This work has little worth and power because it has no Divine life and purpose in it. When a believer thinks little and knows little of the power that dwells within them, they usually come out of the gate with enthusiasm but sometimes don't have enough real strength to finish the race. Simply said, there is true life in the service of God and there will be true service in the life for God.

Our life is never fuller than when we are doing and living for what God created us for. Our service for God is where the hidden beauty of the life of Christ is brought out before a world in need of what we possess; not only for the sake of what it accomplishes through the believer for others, but also what it accomplishes in the life of the believer himself.

**A biblical example:**

**Matthew 9:27-33 - And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. 30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. 31 But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country. 32 As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. 33 And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.**

**1. Vs. 27 - A Cry for Help. And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us.**

Nothing sets the power of God into motion like the sincere cry of a person in need. God is the provider of all good things, and He delights in the cry of His people and people who are soon to be His. We may not know all that God will do when we cry unto Him, but we can be assured that He will indeed do something.

Notice that the cry was preceded by the two men following Jesus..... "**two blind men followed him, crying and saying...**". This is an interesting order that we find in this situation. In other words, we do not see these men going in one direction and Jesus going in another. They knew that if they were going to have any chance of being helped by the Lord, they would have to begin to follow Him, at least, the best they could. So, it is with us; if we ever get to the place where we think that our lives go can in one direction and the "way of the Lord" is a completely different direction, we need not think there is much of a chance of having our needs met.

**Matthew 16:24 - Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

**2. Vs. 28 - A Question of Faith. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.**

Jesus needed no confirmation or encouragement regarding whether He was able to heal these two blind men. He knew that He was omnipotent (all-powerful); in fact, He declared that He was.

**Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

What Jesus wanted to hear from these two men was whether THEY believed that He was able to grant their request. Faith is the condition for the provision of God. What we would have Him to do for us; we must be fully persuaded that He is able to do. How much do we really believe in the power of Jesus Christ? That is a legitimate question for all of us. Believing in Jesus also involves believing "about" Jesus. To trust Him as my Savior without reflecting on His power to save will often keep me in the place of self-reliance. His power to deliver is equal to His power to save; His power to change my life is equal to His power to save and His power to make me all I need to be for Him and keep me from being all that I was is equal to His power to save! What does my life reveal concerning whether I believe in the power of Jesus Christ?

**3. Vs. 29,30 - A Miracle Granted. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. 30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.**

Again, we see that He put the cure upon their faith.... "According to your faith be it unto you."

Jesus did not enquire into any other thing that may have been going on in the lives of these two men. He did not enquire about their wealth because they could not pay Him to heal them, and He did not enquire about their reputation because they could have never been good enough to deserve healing based on their own merit. He based the whole on the fact that they believed He could do what they were asking Him to do.

**What this teaches us:**

- **The knowledge of Jesus concerning the sincerity of our faith.**

It should be a great comfort to us that Jesus knows about our faith. Our faith may be ever so weak at times to us even while we are trying to make it appear strong to others, but Jesus knows our faith. Use the faith that you have, and God will reward that faith; when He does it will increase the faith that you have.

- **His insistence upon our faith being essential.**

Faith begins a relationship with God. Believers can be sure that God will somehow, someway, work on their behalf. Things may not always turn up and turn out like we think they ought to but God will show favor to His children according to their faith. Whether or not things always turn out the way that we think they ought to turn out is not the issue; the issue is that we have the consistent calm assurance of the peace of God when are trusting in His power, and when we are not, we will not experience that peace.

**4. Vs. 31,32 - A Gratitude Expressed. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country. 32 As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. 33 And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.**

Jesus told them in verse 30, "**see that no man know it**". Some think that Christ, in keeping it private, showed his displeasure against the people, who had seen so many miracles, and yet believed not (**John 12:37**). Or perhaps He did it in caution, for his own protection; because the more He was proclaimed, the more jealous the rulers of the Jews would be of his growing interest among the people. Whatever the case might be we cannot be for certain, but these men had an experience wherein they must have felt they could not keep secret.

When I describe verses 31,32 as **A Gratitude Expressed** I cannot be certain who exactly fits this description. First, we see these two blind men that went out and "**spread abroad his fame in all that country**" which is obviously in gratitude to Christ for what He had done for them. Then the story continues with the following..... "**As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.**" There are two "theys" in the story and whether or not it is speaking of the two blind men in both cases or it is speaking of the two blind men and others who brought in the man possessed with a devil, they are both serving Jesus out of gratitude for what they knew He did in their lives and what he could do in the lives of others.

In other words, from beginning to end we see a picture of the "**Loving Servant**" in this story. First, we know that it would have been nearly impossible for two blind men to follow Jesus on their own; for certain they would have needed at least some assistance. We then see Jesus touching their eyes and giving them sight and immediately we see them going out and telling others the remarkable things that Jesus did on their behalf. Following that we either see the blind men (former) or some others bringing someone else to Jesus to be healed.

All of this is a description of people who were changed by the power of Jesus Christ and following that change became a "link in the chain" for others to experience His power as well.