

Committed to Serve – 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Philippians 2:5-8

If you were with us a couple weeks back, I shared the words of Paul from 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. In those few verses, we see that part of our roll as Christians involves being a servant, being stewards of our faith, and being faithful. We are going to use these verses this morning as our focal point for the next message in our **Committed** series. Read **1 Corinthians 4:1-2**. Every believer who answers the call to service must attempt to serve with the same level of faithfulness as Jesus. To be found faithful in service, or to be found ***Committed to Serve***, there are some key personal elements which must be seen in the followers' life.

All of Scripture teaches us about various principles for committed service, but some of them stand out more than others. A committed servant of Jesus must be available, humble, obedient, faithful, and enduring. The truth is, no matter our capacity, or our talents, or our giftedness, when it comes to the service opportunities appointed to us through Jesus, complete faithfulness is required. May the faithfulness of God and the commitment of Jesus help each of us strive for excellent service in the duties assigned for us.

When we consider availability, we must consider that the call of Christ brings with it some form of sacrifice. After all, did not Jesus willingly make Himself available for the cross. **Read Philippians 2:5-8**. Sometimes, our availability requires us to sacrifice our wants and desires. This thought also reminds me of Isaiah's response to God when God called him to serve as one of His prophets to Israel. **Read Isaiah 6:8**. If we are to be committed to serve, then we must make some sacrifices and make ourselves available.

With sacrifice is often found humility. As we just read here in Philippians, humility must be present if the sacrifice is to be genuine. The biggest enemy to humility is pride. Pride stands in direct opposition to humility, and we all know what God thinks about pride.

Read Proverbs 8:13. John Piper teaches that pride is universal. Every person deals with it. The first words of **Philippians 4:6a** warns us to avoid the dangers of allowing pride to filter down in our lives as worry and anxiety. The committed servant will remain clothed in humility and do everything possible to prevent being found prideful.

Humility leads to obedience. Look back again to **Philippians 2:8**. Jesus obeyed unto death. It was God's plan for Jesus. Without it, we would not have the opportunity for eternal forgiveness. God has a plan for your life. True obedience is seen when we faithfully carry out the plans of the Father. Committed service requires our obedience. If God asked you to do something unto death, are you willing and faithful enough to see it through?

Obedience requires the committed servant to be brave, to work diligently, and to demonstrate the strength of character found in Jesus, just as He remained committed to the assignment set before Him. **Read Hebrews 12:1-2.** Our commitment to serving God must remain intact regardless of the challenges we may face, regardless of the Satanic attacks, regardless of the constant criticism. Look at the next 2 verses here in Hebrews. **Read Hebrews 12:3-4.** The committed servant must not grow weary in carrying out the plans of God.

Finally, when all these things are not enough, the committed servant must rely on the power of God and the strength of Christ for help with enduring to the very end. We must set our minds on what lies ahead and forget what is behind us. **Read Luke 9:57-62.** The commitment to serve comes with a cost, but oh is it worth it!

I want to close today by reminding you about some of the rewards God has reserved for the faithful servant.

The first comes from the parable of the talents in **Matthew 25:19-23.** When we are found faithfully committed to the mission set before us, we are promised the opportunity to enter the joy of our master. We are promised the gift of His presence! For eternity!

Read Psalm 16:11. Rewards in heaven reflect the life we live here on earth. If our life here on earth brings honor and glory to the King, then our rewards in heaven will also bring honor and glory to the King. The Bible speaks about the crowns we can receive for our faithful service. The Victor's Crown, the Crown of Rejoicing, the Crown of Righteousness, the Crown of Life, and the Crown of Glory. Each of these crowns will be given when it's our time to stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ. How we live our lives now determines how He will judge us then. Are you motivated to serve Him and to live more like Him every day? If so, then it will be your level of commitment, or the level of faithfulness to serving Christ that determines the crowns you will receive. May prayer, and my hope is that you receive them all.