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Having A Servant's Heart

By Pat Chadwick

When we talk about things like, "Having a Servant Heart and Giving Service to God," which is required, if we are to Build his Kingdom, I am reminded of Matthew West's song, ***Do Something***, which says:

I woke up this morning, Saw a world full of trouble now
Thought, how'd we ever get so far down,
How's it ever gonna turn around,
So I turned my eyes to heaven, I thought,
God why don't you do something?
Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of people living in poverty,
Children sold into slavery, the thought disgusted me.
So, I shook my fist at Heaven and said,
"God, Why don't you do something?
He said, "I did, I created you!"

{Chorus} If not us, then who, If not me and you
Right now, it's time for us to do something.
If not now, then when will we see an end to all this pain?
It's not enough to do nothing,
It's time for us to do something.

I'm so tired of talking about how we are God's hands and feet,
But it's easier to say than to be,
Live like angels of apathy who tell ourselves,
"It's alright, somebody else will do something."



Well, I don't know about you
but I'm sick and tired of life with no desire.
I don't want a flame, I want a fire,
I wanna be the one who stands up and says,
"I'm gonna do something."

{Chorus} If not us, then who...

[Bridge] We are the salt of the earth,
We are a City on a Hill,
Shine, Shine, Shine!

But we're never gonna
change the world,
By standing still
No, we won't stand still,
No, we won't stand still,
No, we won't stand still.

I think the lyrics above say a lot about service and building God's Kingdom! We carry a huge responsibility. As people of God, we have been called to build the city on a hill and shine, shine, shine. We have been standing still for too long, just watching the world go by! Are we ready to step up to serve and shine? **Are we ready as a people to become the living church on fire for God, on fire to serve?**

It will take all of us serving and working together to accomplish this great task. God calls us to be of one heart and mind. I don't think that means we will all think exactly alike but rather we will all have a heart and mind to serve God, in our individual capacities, to build up his Zion and Shine, Shine, Shine. **We are called to be his Hands and Feet upon the earth. We are called to minister to others, to step up and make a difference. Zion is to be a blessing to the poor and the needy of this world. Will you offer your service today for this great cause? *And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart***

and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them (Genesis 7:23).



Apostle Clifford Cole, in his book, *The Revelation in Christ*, says about service: We are our brother's keeper. No person is without responsibility for another. Everyone of us is a creator of life, not only for those with whom we have contact, but for those who shall come in generations yet ahead...Jesus calls us to serve. Jesus came into the world to bring salvation. It was his purpose to bring health to the human race, and we can contribute, as did he, to the well-being of society.

Jesus speaks of the health of mankind as inherent in the keeping of the **Two Great Commandments**. *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matthew 22:36-39).* Out of love comes the motivations which develop personality and makes life rich, not only for ourselves but for others, for we are a part of mankind and the good health of the human race is to be found not in hate, distrust, and doubt, but rather in faith, love, and goodwill to all men. Here is social life which is not selfish. It does not ask what is in it for itself. Never could the true follower of Jesus separate himself from other people as though he could exist without them; rather like Jesus, he identifies himself with them...loving them, forgiving them, serving them, praying for them. He is his brother's keeper...Jesus himself healed the sick, he was concerned about poverty. He taught men to live uprightly with moral integrity. Jesus calls us in every generation to bring the benefits of his teaching to a society.

Jesus not only taught the gospel of the kingdom, he lived it by his every act and deed. Jesus wanted to make it clear that he was the way of the Kingdom. He was in their midst teaching them and living the way of the kingdom...He calls us to share this task in each generation. This is the call of the church. The church is commissioned with the task of building the Kingdom of God upon the earth...These are days when we recognize more clearly than ever **that the Kingdom must be if the world is to be saved from destruction. We join together in the church under the Spirit of God to achieve this work. He himself called us to build the Kingdom saying, "Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God, and to establish his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:38)."**

We do not see Jesus being great for what He received as for what He gave. Jesus said, "But it ought not to be so with you; but he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he who is chief, as he who doth serve. For whether is he greater, who sitteth at meat, or he who serveth? I am not as he who sitteth at meat, but I am among you as he who serveth (Luke 22:26-27)."

There is happiness in serving. It is a strange paradox of the Christian way that we must give to receive. When life's goals are directed at getting for ourselves there is no lasting joy; but when we live for others, every blessing received seems multiplied as it is given. Thanks be to God that he has given to each of us gifts which we may use in his service. *And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God (Mosiah 1:49).*

Jesus said, *"Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister. And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant; Even as the Son of Man came, not to be ministered unto, but to minister; and to give his life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:26-28)."*





Instruction on Serving

And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me (Matthew 25:41).

Elbert A Smith, from his book, *Square Blocks*, presents: A Cup and Loaf for the Master. Elbert A says: “Jesus is not with us today, hungry, thirsty, weary, homeless, that we may administer to his needs. But through service to others he opens to us an avenue by which we may hand to him the cup and the loaf. **Jesus said, *Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.***

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee; or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in; or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me (Matthew 25:35-41).”

As I said, Jesus is not sick today that we may visit him. But thousands of poor human beings are sick. Jesus is not naked and hungry now. The seamless garment has given place to robes of glory. He is not homeless. He dwells on high. Yet he says, “I was a stranger and ye took me in.”

We cannot open our door to Jesus now and say to him, “Come in and lie in my bed.” But we can minister to others and in that way, Jesus will come in at our door and sleep in our bed.”



Action Section

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

ACTION: Find Ways to Serve

- 1. If you do not know your gifts and talents seek them out by prayer and fasting. God WILL reveal them to you.** *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance, that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee (2 Timothy 1:6).* Read Matthew 25:15-30 on the Parable of the Talents.
- 2. Go Forth and Serve with all Your Heart** = Look for ways to serve. Be mindful of the needs of others. Ask God to give you a servant’s heart. Ask God who needs my ministry today? Be ready to move out of your comfort zone. *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, (with all your heart) as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance for ye serve the Lord Christ (Colossians 3:23-24).*
- 3. Make Yourself Available for Service** = We have enlisted in the army of Christ. Let us not be AWOL when our service is needed. *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a*

soldier (2 Timothy 2:3-4). It's never convenient to serve. If you wait till it's convenient, you will be AWOL.

4. **Be Joyful in Your Service** = Ask God to help you move out in service with joy. *Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing (Psalms 100:2).*
5. **Persevere** = Faithful servants fulfill their responsibilities. They do not leave a task half done. They don't quit when they get discouraged or hit troubled waters. As servants of Christ we must be faithful in our calling. *And whoso is found a faithful, a just, and a wise steward, shall enter into the joy of his Lord, and shall inherit eternal life (Doctrine & Covenants 51:5b).*



Helpful Tips on Serving:

- Don't be surprised that when you pray for something or someone, if just like in the song, God calls you to be a part of the solution.
- Be prepared to Serve.
- Know it will take more sacrifice and be harder than you think.
- Know it will also be more fulfilling than you can ever imagine.
- Know that when in service to God, he is always there to help you.

I share these tips from experience. One morning while praying for my older sister, who was in an abusive marriage, the Lord spoke to my heart and said, **“Prepare your home, I’m going to send your sister to you.”** I thought, “Wow! That’s amazing!” And then I thought, “Wow! She still has 5 children at home! How is that going to work.” I told Hal, my husband, about the experience and asked him if he would be willing to assist her and the children. He said yes. Then we spoke to our daughters, as they too would have to sacrifice. They also said yes.

We thought we were prepared but a few months later, when I received a call from my sister, after she had been severely beaten, to come and get her, I realized we were not as prepared as we thought. We also quickly discovered it was much harder than we had ever imagined.

We had a small home with one bathroom and now it was serving 11 people. It was made harder because my sister had a special needs child who constantly threw and flushed items into the toilet, stopping it up. I learned to use the plumber snake to unstop it. Something I never imagined when God called us to serve my sister, nieces, and nephews. Many sacrifices were made, many issues had to be overcome, too numerous to mention here.

We found serving God is not always easy, but it is always worthwhile, and he is always there to assist us, strengthen us and guide us. **Service to God is our opportunity to be his hands and feet upon the earth. It is your opportunity to, as Elbert A says, “To take Jesus in at your door to sleep in your bed.”**

