

Improving Your Service to God

1-13-13

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1

We are commended in the Scriptures to look for examples of service in order to learn how to be of service to God. We are repeatedly told to look to our savior Jesus Christ as the ultimate example of a servant. There are many who put on the image of Christ in service and thereby became servants whom we find commendable. Today we look at two of them.

In Isaiah 6 we read about the calling of the prophet Isaiah. He was a young man who God called to be a great prophet. We see first how he saw his sinfulness as a hindrance to being before God. Then we see God symbolically remove his sin. When God asked for someone to go to speak for Him, Isaiah responded "Here am I send me".

The second example is the woman whom Isaiah spoke of as the sign of the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14). We read about Mary in Luke 2:26-56 and how she was called by God to deliver the Messiah. She was not married, and from the perspective of others might be an adulteress (indeed this was her future husband's perspective, Matthew 1) and as such could be put to death. Instead of complaining she replies "Let it be to me according to your word"

Two Great Servants. Neither considering the burden of service; Isaiah is told he will preach fruitlessly, and Mary will live to see her son murdered. They are not jaded by the fear of failure. For them, it was enough to be called to serve. We Are Those Called by God (John 6:44-46). How should we reply? How about like Isaiah and Mary - here am I send me, and Let it be to me according to your word.

Isaiah was the man at the moment to respond to God. We too find ourselves in particular places and opportunities to serve. Consider that we may be THE instrument to serve God in that moment. Mordecai once told Esther "Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"(Esther 4:14)

Mary's heart was that of a servant. She did not think of herself; whatever God said was her desire. We too can serve God in difficult moments and times by faithful devotion. Here was a truly remarkable servant, who did not weigh the difficulty of service, but the honor of being called to serve.

Learning by Example – here are two Great Servants. One a Great Prophet, the other the Mother of the Messiah. They were chosen by their servant's heart. We can learn much by being those who answer God in like manner.