

PRINCIPLE AND REWARDS OF SERVITUDE

TEXT: (Proverbs 27:18, NIV)

¹⁸The one who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever protects their master will be honored.

INTRODUCTION:

1. “And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all” (Mark 10:44, KJV).

I. EXAMPLES OF SERVANTHOOD

A. Jesus

1. “He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil” (Acts 10:38, NIV).
2. “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45, NIV).
3. “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head” (Luke 9:58, NIV).
4. “Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest” (Luke 22:24, NIV).
5. “So he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him” (John 13:4-5, NIV).
6. “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” (John 13:14-15, NIV).

B. Paul—Servant to All

1. “If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless” (Philippians 3:4-6, NIV).
2. “But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things” (Philippians 3:7-8, NIV).
3. “Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible” (I Corinthians 9:19, NIV).

C. Mordecai—Protecting His Master

1. “But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king” (Esther 2:22-23, NIV).
2. “The one who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever protects their master will be honored” (Proverbs 27:18, NIV).

II. THE ATTITUDE OF A SERVANT

1. “You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience

to God and died a criminal's death on a cross" (Philippians 2:5-8, NLT).

A. Willingness to Serve Others

1. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'" (Matthew 25:34-40, NIV).

B. An Attitude of Hospitality

1. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'" (Matthew 25:40, NIV).
2. "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2, NIV).

III. REQUIREMENTS OF SERVANTHOOD

A. Willing

1. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'

And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'

He said, 'Go and tell this people' (Isaiah 6:8-9, NIV).

B. Faithful

1. "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2, NIV).

C. Humble

1. "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3, NIV).

CONCLUSION:

A. Rewards of Servitude

1. "The one who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit, and whoever protects their master will be honored" (Proverbs 27:18, NIV).
2. "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life" (Mark 10:29-30, NIV).

B. Servitude—Our Responsibility

1. "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21, NIV).