

9. Where do we Go from Here?

Unworthy Servants

⁷ "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? ⁸ Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? ⁹ Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty'" (Luke 17:7-10).

Hopefully we have been learning and actually doing more of our Master's will over the past several weeks. If so, we need to be reminded that "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty" (v. 10). Anytime we grow in understanding or obedience, the Evil One is always ready to tempt us into thinking we are something special, a little better than others. Jesus here warns us of that danger and reminds us of the proper attitude.

We must always remember we are servants. The King himself did not come to be served but to serve, and so we must surely do the same. Every aspect of SHAREing the kingdom must be approached with humility and as a servant. It is by losing our lives for Jesus and the gospel that we save our lives (Mark 8:35). In order to change the world like Jesus we must genuinely have the attitude of a servant and approach all we do accordingly. If we are continuing steadfastly in our own basic training (pp. 9-20), we should be reminded of this fairly often. But based on my own heart and struggle, I thought we might all benefit from a special reminder here.

1. Stop right now and pray that God will search your heart and show you if there is any hint of self-importance or pride in you. Then wait silently before the Lord for a while to see if anything comes to light. If thinking more highly of yourself than you ought (Romans 12:3) is an issue, then add a prayer request about it in the front of your notebook.

Summary of an Empowered Worker for God's Harvest Field

We began this program by noting Jesus' words that the harvest is plentiful, the workers are few and we need to pray for more. We also said that a worker is someone who seeks to change the world like Jesus, and we summarized his work with the SHARE acronym. A more complete summary and description of an empowered subject of the King is someone who ...

1. Recognizes in their mind, will, and emotions that Christ is the King of the universe. (pp. 9-12, 65-68)
2. Has humbled themselves, turned from their sins, put their trust in Jesus as Christ and King, confessed Him publicly as Lord, and been born again of water and Spirit. (p. 13, 65-68)
3. Is submitting increasingly to Christ as King in attitudes, thoughts, feelings, words and deeds, by the power of the Holy Spirit. (pp. 14-20, 113)
4. Humbly trusts God to work for the growth of his kingdom and so is devoted to prayer, especially for workers and opportunities. (pp. 21-30, 81-86)
5. Sees people. Notices them and views them as Jesus did—harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (pp. 33-40)
6. Has compassion for people. Feels it and shows it. (pp. 41-50)
7. Reflects the kingdom in their deeds anytime there is an opportunity. (pp. 51-60)
8. Practices watchfulness, probes people's hearts, and announces the Kingship of Christ anytime there is an opportunity. Does this as proclamation or telling good news, with an appropriate manner. (pp. 61-102)
9. Explains / Equips the subjects of the King both intentionally and also spontaneously whenever God gives opportunities. (pp. 103-112)
10. Views himself/herself as a humble servant of the King, on call 24/7, constantly watching and ready to do the King's bidding, whenever He gives an opportunity. (p. 33 #1, p. 40 #3, p. 50 #4, pp. 84, 113)

Capstone Assignment. Spend a few days seeking deliberately to live as the kind of worker you have been training to be, summarized on p. 114. Then come back a day or two before the next meeting and answer the questions below.

2. How do you feel about your efforts to live as a worker in the Lord's harvest field the last few days?

3. List any ways you believe you are different now or have grown as a result of the training you have done in Empowering Subjects.

4. Is there a particular aspect or two of being a worker that you still feel really uncomfortable with (see the list on previous page)? One way to continue in what we have been doing is to find the place in your notebook that addresses this area and work through it again. Doing this with a friend, or at least discussing it with them, will make it more effective. Can you think of another way of strengthening this area?

5. What kind of support, encouragement, or reminders will you need in order to continue praying and watching for opportunities to SHARE the kingdom after this program is over? Would you like to see this group do something to support each other? What ideas do you have about it?

Please email me at marvin@empoweringsubjects.com and give me some feedback on the program using these five questions and anything else:

1. What did you like most about the Empowering Subjects program?
2. Tell any ways your actions have changed as a result of the program?
3. What was *not* particularly helpful in the program?
4. What suggestions do you have for improving Empowering Subjects?
5. Do you know a person or church who might be interested in either doing this program or financially supporting it?

Truths Worth Sharing Reference Sheet

God has made Jesus the ultimate authority in the universe until the end of time (Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:19-23). He is...

- Christ, Messiah or King (Acts 2:36, 42; 8:5, 12; 17:3, 7; 18:5; Mark 1:1). Both Christ and Messiah literally mean "anointed one" and refer to a king (see 1 Samuel 10:1; 15:17; 16:13)
- Lord (Acts 2:36; 10:36; Romans 10:8-9; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Philippians 2:9-11)
- Son of God (Acts 9:20; 2 Corinthians 1:19; Mark 1:1; Matthew 16:16)
- Exalted to God's right hand (Acts 2:33; 5:31; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 7:26; also Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 1:3)
- God glorified him (Acts 3:13; 1 Peter 1:21)
- Savior (Luke 2:10-11; John 4:42; Acts 5:31; 13:23, 32; Titus 3:3-7)
- Judge (Acts 10:42; 17:31; 24:25; Romans 2:16)
- Leader or Prince (Acts 5:31)
- Prophet to whom we must listen (Acts 3:22-23)
- Capstone (most important stone)(Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:1-7; Mark 12:1-12)

The signs, wonders, and miracles Jesus did in his ministry showed by deeds that he was the ultimate authority (Matthew 12:25-28; Acts 2:22; 10:38)

Jesus' death was initiated by people who did not recognize who he really was (Acts 4:11; 13:27). His shameful death made it seem like he wasn't anyone special (1 Corinthians 1:22-25). In fact, however, the death of Jesus was...

- Part of God's plan (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28)
- A fulfillment of Scriptures that said he would have to suffer (Luke 24:25-27, 44-48; Acts 3:15-18; 13:27; 17:2-3)
- A sacrifice for our sins (Mark 10:45; Romans 3:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 7:27; 9:15, 26; 10:8-14; 1 John 2:2; 4:10)

When God raised Jesus from the dead...

- He was seen by many eye-witnesses (Acts 2:32; 3:15; 5:32; 10:39, 41; 13:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7)
- It showed that he was more powerful than death, Satan's strongest weapon (Hebrews 2:9, 14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:26; 2 Timothy 1:10)
- It showed that he is the Son of God (and also all the things mentioned at the top of this sheet)(Romans 1:1-4; 10:8-9; Acts 17:31)
- We have a strong basis for hope that we too will be raised from the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Colossians 1:5; Titus 1:2; 2:13; 3:7)

What God did in Jesus is good news because...

- We now have a good King to lead us (Matthew 2:1-6; 4:23; Mark 1:1, 14-15; Luke 2:10-11; 4:43; 8:1) (Remember, the kingdom of God is the kingship and rule of God; that in itself is good news for us)
- He will turn us away from worthless things (Acts 3:16:14:15)
- Our King is merciful and will forgive us and save us from sin and judgment (Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:10-11; Acts 2:38-39; 3:19; 4:12; 5:31; 10:43; 13:26, 38-39; 16:31; 20:24; 1 Thessalonians 1:10).
- Our King has faced our Enemy for us and can deliver us from his power (Matthew 12:24-29; John 12:30-31; 1 John 5:18)
- Our King welcomes anyone who will submit to him (Matthew 11:5; Luke 4:18-19; 7:22; Acts 10:34-35; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31).
- God will come live inside us through the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39; 5:32; Romans 5:5; 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 4:6).
- He gives us peace (Acts 10:36; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:19-20)

To submit to Christ, become a part of God's Kingdom, and receive its blessings, we must ...

- Humble ourselves (Matthew 11:25-27; 18:1-5)
- Give him our utmost loyalty and devotion (Matthew 6:24; 13:44-46)
- Believe in Jesus as the ultimate authority (John 8:24; Acts 10:43; 13:38-39; 16:31; Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:8-9)
- Repent (change our hearts and lives) and turn back to God (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20; cf. Mark 1:14-15; Luke 24:47)
- Embrace and confess Jesus as our Lord (Romans 10:9-10; 10:13)
- Be baptized (immersed in water) with faith in Jesus (John 3:1-8; Acts 2:36-41; 8:26-38; 10:47-48; 22:16; Colossians 2:11-12)
- Submit to our new Lord in our hearts, words, and deeds (Luke 6:46)

Jesus is the only way to God (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

There will be a day of judgment for everyone (Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:1-16; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27; 1 Peter 4:17)

It is not yet God's will to destroy all evil (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

If you feel like you are so bad that God could never forgive you (Mark 3:28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:15-16)

If you feel like you could never measure up (Mark 10:17-18; 1 John 1:8-10).

I just don't believe (John 7:17; 12:37; Acts 14:2; 19:9; 28:24. It's a choice)

How could a good God send people to hell? He doesn't answer to us. His judgment will be just (Acts 17:31; Romans 2:5; 2 Timothy 4:8). How come no one ever asks, How can a just God allow bad people to go to heaven?

Empowering Subjects

Changing the World like Jesus



The purpose of Empowering Subjects is to equip subjects of the King to experience the sacrifice, satisfaction and joy of cooperating with God's work to grow his Kingdom among us.

Marvin Bryant
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