

PASTORSHIP & SERVANTHOOD



INTRODUCTION

Jesus constantly addressed our tendency to be over-impressed with how hard we are trying...that even in our servant-hood we would get prideful. When we truly learn to walk in grace, to understand God better, we will learn to live the call that places others above ourselves.

DISCUSSION

In what ways is God, even today, a servant?

How is He Pastoral?

EXPLANATION

Do you take it for granted that God is a pastor and a servant?

Do you think Jesus ever felt any qualms about being a servant (washing people's feet)?

Does it blow your mind that the God who made everything views servant hood as a defining characteristic of His people (and that He, Himself, serves)?

APPLICATION

Read Luke 17:7-10.

How often do you get impressed with how hard you are working?

Do you ever feel like you are the only one working or no one works as hard as you do?

How does that work its way out in your attitudes?

How do you think Jesus would counsel you to handle the attitude?

MISSION

How could a church, living as servants, change our culture's perception of the gospel?

When and where does the line get drawn between servant hood and getting taken advantage of (or enabling someone)?

What is the best way to serve while not creating a whole class of people who think they are better than everyone else?

How can proper "pastorship" in our lives lead to better servanthood?

Week 22

Family & Group Discussion



PASTORSHIP & SERVANTHOOD

Genesis 13

Romans 12:18

Deuteronomy 23:7

Isaiah 19:24-25

Genesis 13:1-18

Galatians 3:29

1 Peter 2:24-25

1 Peter 5:4

John 10:14-15

Psalms 23:1-3

Luke 17:7-10

Mark 10:45

Week 22

Notes & Scripture



PASTORSHIP & SERVANTHOOD

Romans 12:18 “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

Genesis chapter 13 starts with Moses showing the difference in Abraham’s life after end of chapter 12. Chapter 13 moves back to where Abraham started at the beginning of chapter 12, Abraham’s faith. In chapter 12, Abraham almost gives up his lineage in unbelief; in chapter 13, he almost gives up his land in STRONG belief.

After he travels to Egypt, Abraham repents and comes back to God. Abraham started in Babylon with converts. He told them about this God who revealed Himself, and he worships with them. Then he took them all to Egypt where he proceeded to sin and sin and sin. God rescued him, Abraham saw his sin, and started the process to go back to where he was supposed to be; he repents.

It is important to note that Abraham does this repentance in front of everyone. It is humbling, but honest. He essentially says in front of everyone, “God, I created a mockery of Your name. I am sorry.”

Abraham now starts to take on his role as a pastor to people and servant of God in chapter 13. Those 2 ideas (pastorship and servanthood) are things all of God’s people should have as part of their character. Abraham starts to see conflict brewing and, as a good shepherd of the people God has placed in his care, he steps in to stop it.

The word strife (the Hebrew word Merivah) means “to quarrel.” Every other time it is used in scripture it is of people grumbling against their leader, the strife was coming from a perceived lack of leadership on Abraham’s part. Abraham now re-solidifies his leadership position by showing everyone the characteristics of pastor and servant.

PASTORAL refers to work done by shepherds. One of the most fascinating things about Jesus was that His most powerful claim to be the messiah was shown in His claim to be the “Good Shepherd” (pastor). *1 Pet 2:24-25 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

Abraham was learning what it meant to be a pastor on behalf of *his* pastor, God (Jesus). Abraham would have related to David’s writing of Psalm 23 “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” He would understand that with God as his Shepherd, things are fine and there is absolutely no reason to fret.

This, again, is what Abraham came to understand. Its slow process and he fails a lot, but he knew God was his shepherd. He sees the people who are with him and understands that he is to be God’s under shepherd to them. They are under his care so he takes them to pastures, builds altars, and starts to teach them who God is and how to worship Him.

SERVANT refers to the posture that Abraham was to interact with those around him. He is not better than them; he is a servant of them in leadership over them. Abraham starts to serve those around him (even Lot) because he started to understand that God was a servant and sought him out by giving him the land and bringing him back from his mistake.

Jesus constantly addressed our tendency to be over-impressed with how hard we are trying...that even in our servant-hood we would get prideful. When we truly learn to walk in grace, to understand God better, we will learn to live the call that places others above ourselves. When servant-hood is lived out in every part of our lives (not just at home or at “church”), we begin to live the life we are called to.

Martin Luther, “What you do in your house is worth as much as if you did it up in heaven for our Lord God.”

God will look at His faithful servants and say, “Well done.”

- He will say it to faithful employees who give themselves diligently to work that never earns much human recognition.
- He will say it to workers who know they could have climbed higher if they had cut corners or manipulated others.
- He will say it to single parents who cared for kids when they were tired and thought nobody was looking.

Abraham, though his faith was imperfect started to get it...do you?

Newcomer Party

August 17th

<http://goo.gl/b5Wol>

