

Day 14 Thurs. March 12 Luke 17:10

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.’ 这样，你们作完了一切所吩咐的，只当说：『我们是不配受表扬的奴仆，所作的本是我们应分作的。』」

This verse comes at the end of a challenging explanation and illustration of what being a servant means. Servants had one job: Fulfill the desires of the master. Only after doing so could a servant look after his own needs. Such a servant does not deserve any special treatment for merely doing what he/she should have done. This verse helps us to not think that God owes us anything when we have “done our duty” in obeying Him. The key is to believe that we really are “unworthy servants.” In other words, it is a great privilege to be a part of God’s Kingdom and to obey Him. We do not deserve to be in this Kingdom but, by God’s grace through Christ’s sacrifice, we, the unworthy, have been made righteous. We are now allowed to work in His Kingdom’s work. However, we should never allow the fact that we are greatly privileged saints to keep us from a proper attitude toward service. No duty is beneath us if we know that we are redeemed sinners, formerly dead in our sins and trespasses, and those who have been snatched out of the fire of judgment. There is, of course, a LOT more to think about as far as serving in the Kingdom but this is a VERY important one! The last time you helped someone, served in some capacity, did what you should have done, what was your attitude? “I hope they appreciated what I did for them!” “I shouldn’t have had to do THAT!” “Why me, again?” Those who know they are “unworthy servants” don’t let such thoughts take hold of them to spoil the joy of serving Jesus, our King. Go over the verse a few more times and quote it often!

QUOTE: “God wants to humble you and fill you with Himself and control you so that you can become part of the eternal work that God wants to do in the earth in your day.” A.W. Tozer

PRAYER: Pray for our church family that we will be the kind of people that truly embrace the joy of serving in God’s Kingdom. Pray for those who serve through teaching, caring, hospitality, greeting, leading, praying, etc.

SONG: [Make me a servant](#)

Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let me lift up, those who are weak. And may the prayer of my heart always be;
Make me a servant, make me a servant, Make me a servant, today.
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Day 15 Friday March 13 Luke 17:18

Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?

除了这外族人，再没有别人回来赞美 神吗？

You might think that this is an unusual verse to memorize and meditate upon. However, it is significant because it challenges our level of gratitude and our actions. The story details: There were TEN lepers who came to Jesus to be healed & cleansed. They all “*stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice: “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”*” Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priest (what the *Torah* told a person to do when his skin was cleansed). “*And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”*” The other nine were apparently Abraham’s direct descendants but the Samaritan, the “foreigner” – the least likely one, one who was from a people that were often hated by the majority people of the day, is the one who delighted Jesus. Verse 18 speaks to my heart. What does God ‘find’ coming from me? What is my level of gratitude? Do I return to Him with loud praises? Or, am I like the other nine who go on their way glad to be made better but lacking a thankful heart? Maybe I get nervous when someone is more demonstrative of their joyful gratitude than I am – ‘they’re a bit too emotional!’ If we lived in a less prosperous country and had to trust God for every meal, perhaps we would be more vocal in our thanksgiving knowing that if God doesn’t provide, we won’t eat. The Samaritan alone showed the appropriate response to Jesus’ miraculous healing. His heart was now cleansed as well as his skin! Everyone who was there that day heard his joyful heart of thanksgiving. What does the Lord hear from me? What level of gratitude has overtaken my heart? QUOTE: Thankfulness guards us from ingratitude, it keeps greed at bay, and it helps us enjoy what God has given (already).

PRAYER: Pray for the Muhash... people in Y that Mary & Brendan are still seeking to encourage and help. They are a despised minority in their country and because of the long civil war, their situation is extremely fragile. Some are followers of Jesus – pray for their light to keep shining brightly in the midst of very harsh circumstances. Pray for aid to reach them and that the plans of the greedy, selfish people in power (from other people groups) will fail. Ask for the Lord’s encouragement and protection to be upon the Muhash....

SONG: [Jesus, Thank You](#)

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend, the agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son; who drank the bitter cup reserved for me
(ch) *Your blood has washed away my sin, Jesus, thank You; The Father’s wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You, once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank You!*
2. By Your perfect sacrifice I’ve been brought near; Your enemy You’ve made Your friend.
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace, Your mercy and Your kindness know no end
(to chorus-ch) (Bridge): Lover of my soul, I want to live for You (4 times)
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Day 16 Saturday March 14 1 Sam. 15:22

Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

「耶和華喜悅燔祭和平安祭，豈如喜悅人聽從他的話呢？聽命勝於獻祭，順從勝於公羊的脂油。 This is what Samuel says to King Saul after Saul claimed that he had obeyed the LORD completely by destroying all that belonged to the Amalekites. Then, when Samuel heard the sheep and cattle noises and confronted Saul, Saul blamed it on the men with him that they were keeping them to sacrifice them to the LORD. Samuel had been told the night before that the LORD was grieved that He had made Saul king. Saul was supposed to lead God's people but instead had compromised and had become proud of himself (v.12). God was not interested in the sacrifice of things that He had told them to destroy. We all tend to excuse ourselves when we are caught doing what we should not have done. Saul's behavior is true of us. We think that mostly obeying God should be good enough. 75% or higher should impress Him. But that does NOT please God. He DELIGHTS in...OBEDIENCE – LISTENING to His voice and doing what He says. All of the things we can offer to God – tithes, offerings, service, prayer, worship, etc. is not a substitute for walking in His word. I can praise Him with a very loud voice or put a lot of money in the offering plate but when I am not giving heed to His voice, my praise or offering does not thrill His heart. Samuel goes on to say in v. 23 *Rebellion* (which is what we do when we do not obey) *is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshipping idols.* (NLT). Ouch! Read over v.22 again a few times. Let it sink in. Ask the LORD to remind you of this throughout the day and seek to delight the LORD'S heart by obeying what He's said.

QUOTE: “Judas heard all of Jesus' sermons.” Thomas Goodwin

PRAYER: Thank the Lord for our landlady, Dr. Linda, who rents our two spaces at prices far below market value and has done so for years! Pray that we can share the Good News with her and her assistant, Maria.

HYMN: [Take my life and let it be](#)

Take my life and let it be, Consecrated, Lord to Thee, Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise (2x)
2. Take my hands and let them move, At the impulse of Your love, Take my feet and let them be, Swift and beautiful for Thee (2x)
3. Take my will, and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne (2x)
4. Take my love, my God, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself and I will be, Ever, only, all for Thee (2x)

SUNDAY March 15

Review our verses from the week. Ask the Lord to speak afresh to your heart.

Psalms 119:165

Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. 爱你律法的人有大平安，甚么都不能使他们跌倒

Psalms 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against You. 我将你的话藏在心里，免得我得罪你。

Psalms 119:34

Give me understanding, and that I may observe your law and obey it with all my heart. 求你赐我悟性，使我能遵守你的律法，且要一心遵守

Luke 17:10

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.' 这样，你们作完了一切所吩咐的，只当说：『我们是不配受表扬的奴仆，所作的本是我们应分作的。』

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1 Sam. 15:22

Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 「耶和華喜悅燔祭和平安祭，豈如喜悅人聽從他的話呢？聽命勝於獻祭，順從勝於公羊的脂油

SING [A Christian's Daily Prayer](#)

As morning dawns and day awakes, To You I bring my need
O gracious God, my source of strength, In You I live and breathe
Each hour is Yours by wisdom planned, Each deed empowered by
sovereign hands, Renew my spirit, help me stand; Be glorified today
2. As day unfolds, I seek Your will; In all of life's demands
And though the tempter tries me still, I cling to Your commands
Let every effort of my life, Display the matchless worth of Christ
Make me a living sacrifice; Be glorified today
3. As sun gives way to darkest night, Your Spirit still is here
And though my strength fades like the light, New mercies will appear
I rest in You; abide with me, Until our trials and suffering
Give way to final victory, Be glorified, today; be glorified, I pray

Music & Words by Matt Merker, Jordan Kauflin, and Dave Fournier

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Day 17 Monday March 16 Romans 12:9

Love must be sincere. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

爱人不可虚假、恶要厌恶、善要亲近。The first sentence can also be translated: Love without hypocrisy (NAS very literal). Let love be genuine (ESV). Don't just pretend to love others, really love them (NLT much more of an expansion but good for understanding). Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it (the Message). "Sincere" includes our word for hypocrisy that we ran into before (day 8). This is the kind of love that God calls us to. Sincere love, without masks, genuine, no acting, no faking. Aren't those good words to consider?! How do we do this? This is a good thing to meditate upon. Asking the Lord, "How do I obey you in this? Lord, show me what it is to love without hypocrisy!" Then, seek to listen to what He says throughout the day.

The second sentence uses a very strong word – to despise, to hate bitterly! It is a present tense verb as well. We are to keep on abhorring – despising what is evil. We are not to hate or despise *people* who are stuck in evil but evil practices that want to get a hold of us. A positive way to think about this is the next phrase – what we are to do instead: CLING = *to glue or cement together, to join firmly* – TO WHAT IS GOOD! Do not let evil find a place in your heart – hate it. Hate lying, lust, greed, selfishness, slander, rebellion, abuse, stealing, cheating, etc. The next time one of those things knocks on your heart's door, see it for what it really is, something to be despised – to not let cling to you. Turn instead to what is good: kindness, faithfulness, mercy, love, sincerity, hope, honesty, truth... Be glued to these. Spend time meditating on this verse today! **QUOTE:** "The person who hates his sins too much will get into trouble with those who do not hate sin enough." A.W. Tozer

PRAYER: Bri & Pat work with people from a very different outlook on faith. It often takes years to see people make a move toward Jesus. They are faithful to present Him in a culturally relevant way. They are also leaders in their organization's work. Pray that they can effectively train & encourage those under their care to sincerely love and present Christ to very religious but Christ-less people.

Song: [Restore, O Lord](#)

Restore, O Lord, the honor of Your name; In works of sovereign power,
Come shake the earth again. That men may see, and come with reverent
fear, To the Living God, whose kingdom shall outlast the years
2. Restore, O Lord, In all the earth Your fame, And in our time revive, the
church that bears Your name. And in Your anger, Lord, remember mercy
O Living God. Whose mercy shall outlast the years
3. Bend us, O Lord, Where we are hard and cold, In Your refiner's fire, Come
purify the gold. Though suffering comes, and evil crouches near
Still our Living God, is reigning, He is reigning here

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Day 18 Tuesday March 17 Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 应当相爱如弟兄、彼此尊敬。“Devoted” is the word used to

describe what the brotherly love (*philadelphia*) for one another is to be. Frederick Godet describes this word as: “**Full of tenderness**. It denotes the delicate affections mutually rendered by those **who cherish one another** with natural affection, as parents and children or brothers and sisters do.” Paul was writing to a group of believers that he had never met but because they belonged to the God who has “poured into our hearts his love through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom. 5:5), he could call them to this kind of love for one another. So, we are NOT lacking the resources to practice this verse! One way in which we are to do this: “Honor one another above yourselves!” ESV “Outdo one another in showing honor.” NLT “Take delight in honoring each other.” This is a present tense verb, so it is to be on-going. However, since love must be ‘sincere,’ our showing of honor to others cannot be a show but must be genuine. Our sinful nature wants others to honor us. We like to be exalted. When Samuel went looking for Saul in 1 Sam. 15:12 (day 16) he was told that Saul had gone to Carmel to “set up a monument for himself!” He was thinking – ‘I’m king, I’ve done great things, so, I deserve a monument to honor me!’ It seems he was devoted to loving himself – honoring himself above others. That is what happens when we make ourselves the focus rather than others. We are to be DEVOTED to one another. To OUTDO one another in honoring each other. Don't worry about how much others are honoring you or devoted to you. Concentrate your efforts on your brothers and sisters in Christ. How do we do these things? That is what we are to spend time today meditating upon so ask the Holy Spirit to show you, in practical ways, how to apply this tremendous verse. He may bring some specific people to mind as well. Write down what you learn/hear here:

QUOTE: “Affection without action is like Rachel. Beautiful but barren.” John Trapp (a Puritan)

PRAYER: Pray today's verse for our CIEFC church family. Think of several people that you are thankful for – ask the Lord to help you show them honor and devoted love.

SONG: [Lord, reign in me](#)

Over all the earth you reign on high, Every mountain stream every
sunset sky; But my one request, Lord my only aim, Is that you'd
reign in me again

**Lord reign in me, reign in your power,
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour**

You are the Lord of all I am, So won't you reign in me again

Over every thought over every word, May my life reflect the beauty of
my Lord, Cause you mean more to me than any earthly thing
So won't you reign in me again

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