

9- Servants Don't Serve For Fame

Mark 3:7-12

We poised the question last session about why we are the way we are. Today I pose the question in a deeper sense. I have entitled this "Servants Don't Serve For Fame." In our last session we talked about the event that led to the response we see here from Jesus. Jesus healed the man with a crippled hand on the Sabbath, *Mark 3:5 And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.* Please notice again the response of the religious crowd to this. *Mark 3:6 And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.*

I- The Withdrawal:

*Mark 3:7 But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea...* A great multitude followed Him. So He did not withdraw for solitude. The crowd was gathering because the word of getting out about the healings. Jesus was becoming a famous person. *Mark 3:8 And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.*

He withdrew because it was not time for Him to be taken by the crowd that would ultimately crucify Him. So He withdrew. Not from serving. *Mark 3:10 For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.*

II- The Charge:

*Mark 3:11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.* In Mark we see that He charged the demons not to make Him known. *Mark 3:12 And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.* His fame was spreading and the opposition was getting stronger. Did Jesus tell them to not tell because He was afraid of what would happen? No way because He did not live His life in fear; He knew what was going to happen. He was sent to die.

Notice the parallel gospel of *Matthew 12:15-16 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; 16 And charged them that they should not make him known:* Here it is not recorded that He spoke these words to the demons like in Mark. As a matter of fact I find nine times at least when Jesus told someone to not tell what He had done. Notice a couple with me.

When He healed the leper in *Matthew 8:4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest...* He healed a man that was blind then said in *Matthew 9:30 And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.* One last one is when He told His disciple to tell no one He was the Messiah. *Matthew 16:20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.*

III- Two Conflicts:

I see two conflicts within a Christian. One is should we brag on Jesus and the other is should we brag on ourselves? I have a couple of others observations or questions that arise out of these. One is when does Christ promoting start and self-promoting end? And I think you would agree that not all publicity is good publicity! And perhaps the question also is fame enough?

Jesus told us in *Matthew 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.* So the obvious answer to do we brag on Jesus is yes, yes, yes we do.

Now to self-promoting! I realize that when we talk about self-promoting or promoting what we are doing at church there is a conflict. It is a matter of the heart? If we are seeking the glory of our deeds and the praise of men then we are usurping the glory due to God. Jesus told a parable in Luke 14 about a man who exalted himself when he should not have. *Luke 14:7-11 HCSB He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noticed how they would choose the best places for themselves: 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, don't recline at the best place, because a more distinguished person than you may have been invited by your host. 9 The one who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then in humiliation, you will proceed to take the lowest place. 10 "But when you are invited, go and recline in the lowest place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' You will then be honored in the presence of all the other guests. 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

So does this mean we should never present ourselves for service by saying we can do such and such? Or does it prevent us from marketing our skills to an employer or as a means to expand our sphere of influence. I think it does not. Again it is all a matter of the heart. So who gets to judge? Notice a couple of last passages as we close.

*1 Corinthians 4:1-5 HCSB 1 A person should consider us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of God's mysteries. 2 In this regard, it is expected of managers that each one be found faithful. 3 It is of little importance that I should be evaluated by you or by a human court. In fact, I don't even evaluate myself. 4 For I am not conscious of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this. The One who evaluates me is the Lord. 5 Therefore don't judge anything prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then praise will come to each one from God.*

*Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*