

# On Good Ground



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PRICELESS

## Gotta Serve Somebody

Years ago, Bob Dylan recorded a song called “Gotta Serve Somebody,” the message of which is no matter your station in life, we all have to serve someone else. For the believer, this is a most sobering message that has eternal consequences. As Dylan says, “It may be the devil or it may be the Lord/But you’re gonna have to serve somebody.”

Long before Bob Dylan expressed this sentiment, however, Joshua imparted this important truth to the people of God. In Joshua 24:15 (NKJV), Joshua said, “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua made it plain that the people had to serve somebody -- either the True and Living God or the false, pagan gods of Canaan... they simply had to make a choice. The same holds true today.

The easy answer for the believer is, ‘I’m going to serve the Lord.’ But what does that mean, exactly? Well, when we stop and reflect on it, we realize that serving God is a lot like loving God. If we truly love God, we have to love people. When the scribe asked Jesus which commandment was greatest of all, Jesus said, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:30-31 NKJV). Jesus’ point? Love God, love people.

If we do not love people, then we really do not love God. John made this point clear in 1 John 4:20-21(NKJV): “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” Loving God requires that we love people. It’s a must. Similarly, serving God requires us to serve people. We can’t serve God without serving other people.

So then the question becomes, who are you serving? The candidates for your loving service are endless. Start at home with family and loved ones, making no distinction for age or

personality. The older can serve the younger just as easily as the younger serves the elder. That someone ‘gets on your nerves’ doesn’t give you a free pass – you still can and should serve them. Let’s be clear – serving doesn’t require you to demean yourself. It simply means selflessly and lovingly doing something for someone else to make their life a bit easier. Remember, it’s your choice.

After beginning at home, work your way out – church, school, job, friends, the community. Be observant of the needs and challenges facing others, and do the good that is within your power to do (see Galatians 6:10; Proverbs 3:27). Don’t worry that this will make you weak or that somehow you’ll become a doormat. In fact, the opposite is true. By serving, you become great in God’s eyes. As Jesus said, “Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:26-28 NKJV). Serving others is the example that Jesus has set for us to follow.

As the Apostle Paul wrote, “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4 NKJV). This is the mind of Jesus, and Paul encourages us to “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). Though equal with God, Jesus became a servant and humbled himself unto death on the cross. Because of this selfless sacrifice, God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name above every name. (Philippians 2:6-11). Serving others is a foundational principle of the Gospel, and it leads not to you being made lower, but to you being lifted up higher by God. Jesus said it best: “He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:11-12 NKJV).

In the end, serving others leads to greatness in the Kingdom and is the key to success, prosperity and promotion. As it’s been said, you’re gonna have to serve somebody. If, in fact, you’ve made your choice and you’re going to serve God, then that means you’re going to have serve people. With so many people out there in need, you might as well get started today.