

The Drum Major Instinct

1 Peter 4:10–11 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Tomorrow is MLK day. And I want to make something clear upfront, Martin Luther King Jr. was a man, not a god. He was a picture of broken pieces being held together for usefulness. He was a broken vessel carrying a message of light. Just like you. Just like me.

We don't celebrate this day because he was perfect, we don't celebrate this day because he was famous, we don't celebrate this day because he was flawless. We celebrate this day because he was obedient. We celebrate this day because he received a call and he accepted it. We celebrate this day because in the midst of ridicule, adversity and the threat of death on his life, he still accepted God's call to lead for change. One of the major principles he preached was the need for all to live with a servant mentality as opposed to a drum major instinct. The drum major has to be up front. The drum major must lead with pomp and circumstance. The drum major must be the loudest, most rambunctious person in the room. And most times the person who has to be the loudest most noticed person in the room, is generally the most insecure.

Jesus on the other hand avoided the drum major instinct. Jesus consistently exemplified the message of humility. Even when his followers wanted him to make a stand and overthrow the government, his response was, my time has not come. Why, because the strongest strategy for progress and success, is humility and servitude. This is contrary to human thinking. This is opposite of what we are taught in the media today. We are told to look out for number one. We are told to protect ourselves and our own interest and anyone who disagrees is our enemy. We are taught that compromise and understanding are a sign of weakness and submission, rather than believing that our gospel is strong enough to love someone who does not agree with us knowing that our love conquers all and could gain a relationship, even a brother or sister in Christ.

The message of the Bible is, the first shall be last and the servant is first. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is quoted as saying, "If you want to be important wonderful. If you want to be recognized, wonderful. If you want to be great, wonderful. But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. That's a new definition of greatness...it means that everybody can be great because everybody can

serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace a soul generated by love, and you can be that servant." Martin Luther King was speaking of the ability, opportunity to love your neighbor as yourself.

Listen, our church has determined that Kingdom Oneness is a value. It is a mindset that will govern our decisions. We are determined not to be the church catching up to what the world is doing in this area of race relations, but we are determined to be the church who leads the charge in discussing what it looks like to be a Kingdom Oneness church. Our Kingdom Oneness team is often asked, "why does KO seem to focus on Black Americans instead of all other minorities?" We began focusing on Black people because the largest minority in our "Jerusalem" around SKC is African-Americans. But at OP, the "Jerusalem" around the church has many different ethnicities. We are motivated by Scripture. Revelations 7:9 and Acts 1:8. Revelation 7:9 "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands," and Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." These verses call us to create Kingdom Oneness with the people God has brought to us, and we are beginning work there. And in order to reach the people in our Jerusalem, we have to know where they come from, what's important to them. And celebrating Black History Month is a celebration of diversity, not an exclusion of any other ethnicity. But we have to admit the greatest chasm in our nation's history has been between blacks and whites, and our goal of informing and appreciating all that Black people have done to advance this country provides a blueprint for acknowledging and celebrating all cultures.

In my 6 years of being on staff here, I want to calm all those in question, we are dead set on preaching the gospel and there will be no compromise on that. Pastor Jim has set a standard for biblical teaching, and we will uphold that standard as we search the scriptures for direction in this area of Kingdom Oneness.

What we learn from scripture is, the heart, the foundation to being one in Christ is to have a heart of service. That is what King's quotes are built from. As I prayed for what God wanted me to share from his word, 1 Peter 4 came to me.

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I have the opportunity to speak to you over the next two weeks on this matter of service and its role in Kingdom Oneness. Over the next two weeks I want to talk about, this week, The Principle of Service and next week, The Practice of Service.

The principle of service shows us the argument for why we should commit our lives to serving, especially for the matter of building bridges and breaking down walls. The practice of service shows us what it practically looks like from examples in our guide for life, the word of God and people in our world. There are three lessons I want us to learn today about the principle of serving, are you interested...

First of all...

1) The principle of service should govern our obedience.

1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

1 Peter was written to a church that was experiencing persecution. They needed to be encouraged. They were being asked to live a life that was not popular to the surrounding culture. They were being taught to build relationships with people that the culture told them to avoid. They were expected to love people who sought to harm them. They were being asked to give their life for this new unifying effort called the Church. And they needed to be encouraged.

We see this in 1 Peter 2:12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Peter tells them in the 10th verse you have gifts, use them to serve one another. When you do this, you show yourself to honestly respect and value what God has given you.

And notice, Peter describes God’s grace as “varied” Literally “rich in variety.” In other words, everyone has something to offer to serve the body of Christ. The person who shows hospitality in the parking lot, need not be jealous of the person standing on stage because these are all gifts of God’s grace. The person leading the faith charge for us to be generous givers walks alongside the person who finds joy in

visiting the sick and caring for the flock. These are all gifts of God's grace. God's gifts are rich in variety, and we should use them as much as we can to serve one another and bring glory to God.

When you obediently serve your brother or sister, you work to break down walls of division, you work to heal the scars of suffering. When the men and women of God have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of God, there is a breaking of strongholds and divisions, they have to come down. When God's presence shows up, walls come down. When we are obedient in service, hatred and bitterness struggle to find a place to rest.

Service aligns your perspective of testing against the lives of those who truly strive for survival. There are many of us who complain about our circumstance, because we have not been in the presence of someone who honestly thanks God for their daily bread. We have developed the ability to be satisfied with our comforts and not give thought to the one who does not share in our same relaxed reality. We must not be satisfied unless all our brothers have the opportunity to partake of that which we enjoy in our everyday life.

MLK in his Birmingham letter states it like this, "I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

My grandmother was an amazing cook. I mean she could cook anything great, Mexican, Italian, American cuisine. There was no recipe out of her reach. One of the most enjoyable things for her to do was have dinner after church on Sunday. She would cook food for 50 even though our immediate family was only about 10-15. And afterwards, like a line to the Chiefs game, people would have plate in hand to take food home. And she wanted to feed everyone. I asked, Granny, why do you send food home with all these strangers. She said, grandson, one day you are going to need a meal and I want to sow into these people hoping that if you are in need, you will reap this blessing. We are all connected, and we should live life, love people, serve people with that in mind.

1-The principle of service should govern our obedience.

2) The principle of service is empowered by our Master.

1-Peter 4:11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies.

God will not ask you to do that in which he has not equipped and prepared you for. Peter uses two examples to make his point. Speaking and serving. There are some whom God has called to be a mouthpiece for him. We believe Dr. King was one of those men. I believe our pastor's are in that same line. When we stand in this pulpit to proclaim the word of God, we do not stand in our own strength. We stand in the fear and admonition of God. We stand in the power of God. Understand this, when we stand to speak to you every Sunday, we stand realizing that people are making life decisions on the words we say believing they are from the bible and if we were to turn you astray, the bible tells us we have a stricter judgement when we stand before God.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

There are some of you listening now, that God has chosen to be his mouthpiece. You are thinking how can I stand, what will I say, how could I possibly make a difference. If you have a call, don't sit and ask how, ask where. Where do you want me to go? Ask who? Who do you want me to speak to. Especially in this matter of Kingdom Oneness. We need you to speak up. We need you to take courage and be the mouthpiece for unity and justice. We need you to see how God has strategically placed you here in this season to take a stand and speak up against wrong. What does that look like? It looks like you not being silent when the racial joke is presented at the water cooler. It looks like you taking a stand when the family member makes a comment and everyone else just says, "oh you know how he is." It looks like you encouraging the people of color in your circle to be honest about what they are feeling and providing a safe place for them to express themselves. Whoever speaks, speak like God has given you something to say!

He also said serve with the strength that God provides. I don't know about you, but sometimes working for Jesus makes me tired. You show up early, you leave late, you study for the bible study and only two people show up. You watch the kids and no one says thank you. You join the praise and worship team and seems no one notices you on stage. You clean up the church lawn every week only to see another piece of paper thrown there the following week. You serve and serve with no recognition and you get tired. Peter here says, don't do it for them, do it for Him.

He is the one who supplies the strength. He is the one who empowers you to keep going. When no one else says thank you, God says, Well done. When it seems you are being ridiculed for your efforts to bring God glory, remember you serve Him.

I have been in Kansas City for about 15 years now. And since I have been here, all I have heard God tell me to do is be a friend to the city. That has meant sitting in pastor's waiting rooms only to be told they have to reschedule. That has meant planning prayer lunches where no one shows up. That has meant being told I am doing too much and spend too much time in the city. That has meant in some cases, not having a safe place to share my heart on either side of the state-line, in either the inner-city or the suburbs, with those who are of one race or another. But you know what encourages me...I know that I am serving by the strength that God provides, and when I move in that strength, the old song would say..."Ain't no stopping us now, we are on the move" ...When God stands with you no man can stand against you.

1-The principle of service should govern our obedience. 2-The principle of service is empowered by our Master.

3) The principle of service is presented by our savior.

1 Peter 4:11b in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

So get it, Our obedience should be governed by the principle to serve, We have gifts from God that should be used to serve His people, and these are rich in variety. Our service is empowered by God, not by your own strength, so we don't have to hesitate in using our gifts to bring people together and build relationships and be the light of Christ in this hurting culture. God will equip us for this. And the reason we follow this plan and commit to this process is because when we do, God get's glory through Christ Jesus.

Martin Luther King Jr. is quoted as saying, "In his life Christ is an example showing us how to live - in his death he is a sacrifice satisfying our sins - in his resurrection a conqueror - in his ascension a king - in his intercession a high priest."

When we serve the body, we grow the body stronger, we build relationships, we bring Glory to God through Christ Jesus. Jesus, the one who made it possible for us to be accepted by God. Jesus, the one who covers our sins with his blood, so that we can forgive others who have sinned against us.

Jesus who said, Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.

Jesus who said, Matthew 23:12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Jesus who said, Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus who said, Luke 6:27 "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Jesus who said, Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Jesus who served us, by being obedient to death, even death on the cross, Jesus the name to which every knee will bow and every tongue confess.

Don't have the drum major instinct, don't let your pride and arrogance keep you from the opportunity to make a new brother or sister in Christ. The way to Kingdom Oneness is through serving one another to the glory of God.