

Returning to *Mighty Ministry*

Debra Jack, Sr. Leader NBCF

“Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the LORD rather than for people (Ephesians 6:7 NLT)

Every Believer in Christ is call to SERVE. That is, to serve others as we would personally serve the LORD Himself. As well, every Believer is then called to some type of leadership somewhere—but that’s another blog! When I speak of leadership in our church it involves “serving people” in ministry. I’m not just speaking of the Sr. Pastors or Sr. Leader. Leadership involves all those who are



visible to the congregation in ministry whether it be praise and worship; hospitality; ushering or serving the children. In other words, not only is our praise and worship leader a leader—but the drummer and base player are leaders also! Not only is one of the children’s teachers a leader; but the assistant to the teacher is a leader also. The greeter at the front door is a leader. The usher who stands on the sidelines is a leader. A leader is one who leads in some capacity being an example to others. In fact, about 75% of our small church is composed of leaders—those involved in ministry.

In the hustle and bustle of church-life, there lies a hidden danger to the very welfare, well-being, health, happiness and power of the Big C—Church: ministry can become ineffective, distorted, misrepresented, altered and even deformed. When this happens or is happening, all areas of leadership (ministry) in the church and in general, can become very mechanical (not having or showing thought or spontaneity; automatic), adversely affecting the overall quality and power of ministry.

When leadership becomes mechanical, it becomes unfeeling, disconnected, obligatory and dutiful and as a result, it becomes superficial instead of supernatural. This is not the LORD’s will. It is not how the LORD Himself did ministry while on Earth; nor does He desire or want this kind of ministry to be involved as part of HIS LEADERSHIP. In other words, when our leadership becomes mechanical, it is far from the LORD’s supernatural influence of leadership over us and it needs to change.

Yet the truth is, ministry can and does become mechanical. Sometimes it even begins that way. We hear of an area in the Church that needs help and so we volunteer. Or, a key leader asks us for our help and assistance and we give them the “okay”; but our heart is not in it and we very quickly begin to show visible signs that it is

not. We can even deal with the feelings of dread and outright dislike. Particularly the LORD knows when we are not connected rightly in our service to Him.

When this happens and we don't take control of it, *ministry is no longer a factor in our service*. Instead, we are treating the service as we would treat taking out the trash or cleaning out the garage at home: It's something that needs to be done, but our heart is not in it.

So, is this a sign you're serving in the wrong area of ministry? No, not necessarily—or not at all!

It's more than likely a sign that we need a change of heart and a new attitude.

Please let me speak candidly from personal experience, from Scripture, and from what I believe is truly a word from the LORD: It is not the LORD's will that we, each one, only do what we are enthusiastic in our heart about or feel like doing. We are all in God's training camp and we each are learning discipline, perseverance, and obedience—all with a good attitude—through serving God in areas we don't necessarily want to, in areas we are connected to, and even areas we are excited and thrilled about. Yet, we are all required to complete this sacrificial test of our service whereby through non-enthusiastic service we are learning, growing, and maturing with a good attitude which is an absolute MUST for every Believer in Christ.

The truth is, our HEART needs to be in EVERYTHING the LORD is asking of us, whether it is something we are enthusiastic about or not; whether it is something we feel like doing or not; whether it is difficult, drudgery, or even scary! *Our heart-condition is what determines life-producing ministry*. In other words, the LORD needs to know we love Him and trust Him and will do whatever He asks of us with a good and godly attitude. But as well, others need to know that our heart is in what we do for them. They need to know that we care—and that we care enough to do what it takes (sacrifice) to give ministry on the very same scale that our LORD gave ministry. This is what produces life-giving, supernatural ministry.

When we really examine the ministry of Jesus, we find that it wasn't always glamorous. In fact, rarely, if ever, was it glamorous. Jesus ministered by serving under some very strenuous, difficult and extreme conditions: persecution; exhaustion; violence; unfaithful and distrustful co-workers; ill-tempered people; religious spirits; people who were jealous and envious; people who wanted to control His every move (aka control freaks); unthankful people—just to mention a few. Shall I continue? The point being, while Jesus fulfilled ministry under many difficult to extreme conditions, at the same time, He filled many roles and areas of service with true and powerful “ministry” driving Him.

Christian ministry is defined simply as *the act of ministering to someone*. *Ministry* is from the Greek word, *diakoneo*, meaning “to serve”, which comes from the Greek root, *douleuo*, meaning “to serve as a slave.” So, these definitions not only define ministry but define the attitude in which we minister—the attitude of one as a bond-servant or slave to Christ Jesus, first and foremost.

Lots of people want to go into “ministry” and many of these same people want to start at the top or take the short or quickest path. Truth is, no one starts at the top in anything, let alone true ministry, and neither does the LORD allow us to take the short path. In ministry, we start in the place of a bond-servant (aka as a SLAVE; aka dying to self) whereby we learn what it really means to serve the LORD.

Jesus provided the pattern for Christian ministry when He said: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). (Also see Matthew 20:28 & John 13:1-17)

So, in this respect, Ephesians 6:7 not only gives us a mandate for excellent, life-producing ministry, but the attitude for life-producing, excellent ministry. I don’t use the NIV translation much anymore, but in the case of Ephesians 6:7, it provides us a great translation: “Serve *WHOLEHEARTEDLY*, as if you were serving the LORD, not people.”

Wholehearted: *completely and sincerely devoted, determined, or enthusiastic—marked by complete earnest commitment.*

Serving God is one of the most important principles of the Christian faith, and Believers are expected to serve God by serving His Church with a joyful spirit—no matter what. How or why can you do this? Only by recognizing and understanding what Jesus did and is continuing to do personally for you.

So, here’s the million dollar question: Are you really ministering as part of your service to others? Or, are you just going through the motions as the world would waiting for your advancement up the ladder of ministry?

No one likes a bad waiter or waitress—one who does not appreciate their job and who does not really want to be there, but they simply need the money. The Church doesn’t need people like that in ministry either—we are filled to the brim with proud people who refuse what they deem as menial ministry when it is really ministry to the LORD and that which will advance them.

Do you want to be effective in the Body of Christ? Do you want the LORD to be pleased with your service? Do you want to produce fruit-filled, supernatural ministry? Do you want to be promoted? Do you want to be in the center of God’s will? *Then serve and serve wholeheartedly as if you were SERVING THE LORD HIMSELF.* This is when simple service turns into mighty ministry.

Every leader needs to examine or re-examine their ministry attitude and skills regularly or consistently to see if what they are doing is *WHOLEHEARTEDLY* for the LORD.

If you have not treated the “ministry” you are serving in right now as unto the LORD, then it’s the right time to repent and restart!

Hebrews 6:10 gives us this wonderful and faithful promise of the LORD: “For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.”

Return to Mighty Ministry! Allow the LORD to challenge, discipline and train you up with a new HEART attitude for true, fruitful and powerful ministry in this great Hour in which we have been appointed and assigned to live!

Note: This article by Sr. Leader Debra Jack is a part of NBCF’s Leadership Training.