E-votional 51

Servant

Luke 22:24-27 (ESV)

A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

Praise the Lord for His infinite wisdom towards His finite creation. Truly the wisdom of God for us to realize and live out is by contrast quite different from the worlds by a longshot.

This instance of a dispute between the disciples that we have just read literally took place right after the Lord's supper. Today, we speak of the Lord's supper as communion. The word communion in the Greek is koinonia. Here is the definition as it is in Strong (1890)

2842 koinōnía (a feminine noun) – properly, what is shared in common as the basis of fellowship (partnership, community).

So, in short, the disciples were enjoying fellowship when the Lord laid out His covenant with them and right afterward the disciples begin to dispute as to which of them were the greatest.

This in effect broke the koinonia fellowship that they were having. However, this is not the end of the story.

Jesus responds in an amazing way by describing that those who want to be great will be the servant of all. I wonder if we grab this concept.

In another place, Jesus speaks of John the Baptist as being the greatest of men born of women, but yet in the next breath also says that he who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than even John (Luke 7:28) Wow!

The meaning behind this for clarity is that Jesus was making reference to those who were to be born of the Spirit when He said Kingdom of Heaven. Basically, those who are the least as born again believers are taking their place right up there as the greatest prophet that ever lived. Jesus is really showing how He views each Spirit-filled believer regardless of position. In this view, the one who has led only one to Christ is in equal company with the Billy Graham's of the world as long as that one kept in step with God's plan. As long as a person is faithful to whatever God is calling them personally to do that is all that matters. So we place no emphasis on one believer as somehow greater than another. We are as born of the Spirit believers all God's children and collectively one spiritual temple for God's dwelling (Ephesians2:21).

Hear then the wisdom from God in all of this. That is that true fellowship in the Spirit is accomplished when each person is others oriented. What I mean, is that the way to Christian love and unity is to put others first by serving them with the gifting that God has enabled you with all the while not focusing on what others have that you may not. But, I would like to emphasize the point of serving with the gifting one has. That is the one that has been given the gift by God and uses it led by His Spirit. In the grand scheme of everything, let us bring the context here to light and illuminate our gathering together today. Well, we could say that when we gather we are not focusing on what we can get out of it but what we can bring to it. In this way, we will be a servant.

Another way of putting this is to say that when we enter in to worship together that we are not so concerned with what we are going to get out of the song choices or even the sermon but how we can serve each other. When this mind is in us that was also in Christ Jesus we will be of the same mind and so fulfill true koinonia (Philippians 2:1-7). However, this is not all about joining together one day a week, it is about a lifestyle that takes place in real life on life situations every day of the week. In this way, we can say that church was never intended to be a place or a destination but a people, servant-minded people living around the Apostles teaching, prayers, breaking of bread, and fellowship (koinonia) (Acts 2:42).

While we are motivated with the same mind as Christ Jesus, I believe God is motivated to ensure that we have all we need as far as spiritual provision is concerned. So let us enter into this life as the church with one heart and mind to serve by the very ability that God has provided each one of us (1 Peter 4:11).

Let us join together with one heart and mind and pray to the Lord to give us grace

to serve.

O Lord, thank You so much for coming from heaven to earth to show us the way. How liberating it is when we lay down our own agendas to serve You by taking the form of a servant as You did. Also, Lord, when you washed the feet of the disciples You showed them and us what we are to be like (John 13:1-20). Give us this very hour, an overflow of love and grace so we can be the church that stands united around Your body and blood that was given to us. In Jesus name. Amen.

Strong, James (1890). Strong's exhaustive concordance of the Bible. Abingdon Press.

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