

Lesson 11

Living Like Timothy

Philippians 2:19-24

Have you ever said “Yes, but...”? It’s amazing how two tiny words can send such a strong signal of a lack of faith or understanding. In our last lesson, we imagined that perhaps the Philippians were pondering Jesus’ example of sacrifice on behalf of others and saying, “Yes, but...that’s *Jesus!*” We saw how Paul pointed out that *he* was “being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of [their] faith” (verse 17). In other words, *both* he *and* the Philippians were offering their lives sacrificially and faithfully.

Next Paul proceeds to give a third example of sacrificial service. Moving to his assistant and traveling companion Timothy, Paul seems to say, “OK. Here’s another person who thinks of others and not of himself.”

As you read Paul’s description of

Timothy, keep in mind these facts about Timothy. He was:

—the son of a Greek father, who was not a believer in Christ (Acts 16:3)

—the son of a Jewish mother, Eunice, and the grandson of Lois (2 Timothy 2:5)

—Paul’s child in the Lord (1 Corinthians 4:17)

—Paul’s companion in prison in Rome (Philippians 1:1)

—Paul’s assistant in the writing of at least five of his letters

Philippians 2:19-24

¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

²⁰ For I have no man like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.

²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

²² But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he

served with me in the gospel.

²³ Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

²⁴ But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.

Out of God’s Word...

1. After reading these wonderful verses, describe Timothy’s relationship with Paul.
2. In your own words, note some of Timothy’s character qualities.
3. How did Timothy differ from some others Paul knew (verse 21)?

...and into your heart

- Read again Philippians 2:5-8. How does Timothy exhibit the attitude and mind of Christ?
- Describe the importance of humility when ministering to others.
- And you, dear friend? What one be-

havior, heart concern, loyalty, or “sacrifice” drawn from the example of Timothy can you take away with you today and begin to weave into your own life of humble service to God’s people?

Heart Response

The spectacular portrait of Timothy in this passage of Scripture causes conviction to flood my soul. How, dear friend, can you and I live more like Timothy?

☞ *First—Submit yourself to God.* You are His servant.

☞ *Second—Submit yourself to another.* Perhaps to become a Timothy we need to first submit ourselves to a Paul. Timothy served *with* Paul in the gospel. Do you have someone you serve with shoulder to shoulder? Is there an older woman or another woman you help as she serves the Lord?

☞ *Third—Mature in usefulness.*

Beloved, we need to sharpen our ministry skills and attitudes. We need to strengthen our faith. We need to increase our knowledge of the sacred Scriptures. As we spend T-I-M-E with a mentor and in ministry and in prayer and in Bible study, we mature in usefulness. (And remember that, at the time of the writing of Philippians, Timothy had been on Paul’s ministry team for over ten years!)

☞ *Fourth—Be content to play “second fiddle.”* Harmony is produced in ministry when everyone seeks to be a servant.

During an interview with famed orchestra conductor Leonard Bernstein, the interviewer asked, “Mr. Bernstein, what is the most difficult instrument to play?” With quick wit, Bernstein responded, “Second fiddle.” He said, “I can get plenty of first violinists but to find one who plays second violin with as much enthusiasm, or second French horn or second flute, now that’s a problem. And yet,” he added,

“if no one plays second, we have no harmony.”¹²

☞ *Fifth—Commit to “The Four A’s.”*

Could you sign the statement below, which was once given to a group of conference attendees?

For You, Lord... **Any thing**

Any where

Any time

At any cost

Sign here

Timothy was an amazing saint and an amazing servant. He was invaluable and irreplaceable because his one desire was to serve Paul and Jesus Christ. He was quite content with the second place, so long as he could serve the Lord. May God make each of us more like Timothy!