

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of a disciple of Jesus Christ and then memorise it together. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. In this fifth series God teaches that there are 5 important things a Christian disciple does: he makes Christ his Lord, he denies himself, he serves, he gives and he makes other people Christ's disciples. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: A DISCIPLE SERVES.

(S) **POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The new Bible that verse we will meditate and memorise is Mark 10:45. We will ask one another questions in order to help us to meditate on the truths written in the Bible. Let me read Mark 10:45 in its context, Mark 10:42-45. "Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The memorisation verse is: Serving. Mark 10:45. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45.

(T) **First. Most leaders in the world are not servants.**

In the world there are all kinds of leaders like government leaders, military leaders, religious leaders and sports leaders. They regard themselves as leaders, but Jesus does not regard them as true leaders. That is because they rule over people instead of serving people. Jesus says this with a tinge of irony. If these leaders had been real leaders, then their leadership style would have been completely different. The leaders in the world spend all their energy to get to the top. Once they have reached the top, they cause all people to feel the weight of their authority. The leaders in the world think of themselves and not of the people they lead. They cause their subjects to squirm under their oppressive rule. They often assume absolute authority over every aspect of the lives of their subjects. When they enforce what their people should think, believe, speak and do, they behave as if they are "god" or "the lord". This kind of leadership is called "lording it over" people. They claim that there is no higher authority above them. Or they claim that God has given their authority to them and that therefore people, who disobey them, disobey God.

(S) **Second. The disciples of Jesus Christ should be servants.**

How should Christian leaders lead? Jesus commands Christian leaders not to lead like most leaders in the world! He says, "Not so with you! Jesus teaches that whoever wants to become great among Christians must be their servant and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of them all. Jesus says that while lording it over people attains greatness in the world, serving people attains greatness in the kingdom of God. The Christian leadership style must be completely the opposite of the leadership style in the world. Greatness in the kingdom of God consists of unselfish giving instead of selfish grabbing. It consists of pouring yourself out to others instead of using others to attain your own goals.

The word "slave" usually has a negative connotation. People think of a slave as someone that has no freedom, as someone that must do unwilling service and as someone that is treated cruelly. But because Jesus uses the word "slave" parallel with the word "servant", we rather have to think of "a humble attendant". It implies that a Christian leader serves willingly, freely and without being treated cruelly or with disrespect. While a person standing at the top of a pyramid always represents leadership in the world, a person standing at the bottom of an inverted pyramid must represent leadership in the Christian community. A Christian leader freely chooses to stand at the bottom of the pyramid. He willingly serves his people. In the world greatness is measured with power, fame or wealth. But in the kingdom of God greatness is measured with service that is done in love.

(T) **Third. Jesus Christ is the greatest example of a servant.**

How did Jesus Christ lead? Jesus Christ is the Lord of lords and the King of kings (cf. Revelation 19:16) and yet during his first coming to this world, he came not to be served, but to serve! Jesus Christ is the greatest Leader, because he is the greatest Servant! His service consisted particularly of giving his life as a ransom for many. What is a ransom and to whom did Jesus pay it? "A ransom" was originally the price paid for the release of a slave. The ransom price that Jesus paid was his own life. He sacrificed his own life in order to make atonement for our sins. He died as a substitute in our place. Jesus Christ did not pay this ransom to Satan, as if all the people in the world first belonged to Satan. He paid the ransom to God, in order to satisfy the holy and righteous anger

of God against all the unholiness and unrighteousness of people. Jesus Christ does not give his life as a ransom for all people in the world, but to “many”. Who are these “many people”? Isaiah 53:8 says, “For the transgression of *my people* he was stricken.” Matthew 1:21 says, “You are to give him the name ‘Jesus’, because he will save *his people* from their sins.” In John 6:39 Jesus says, “I shall lose none of *all that God has given me*.” Acts 20:28 says that Christ *bought the church* with his own blood. Romans 8:32-33 says that God gave Jesus up for us all, that is, for *those God had chosen and justified*. Although Jesus Christ did not give his life as a ransom for everyone, he also did not give his life as a ransom for only a very few people. He gave his life as a ransom for very many people. In Revelation 7:9 we read that John saw a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne of God and Jesus Christ.

(S) Fourth. Why should Christians be servants?

One. In Mark 10:42-45, we already saw that the real measure of *greatness in the Church* and in the kingdom of God is to serve. Christians serve, because that is really important in the Church and in the kingdom.

Two. In 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Paul says, “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.” Christians serve, because that is the way to win people for Christ.

Three. In 1 Peter 4:11, Peter says, “If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised.” Christians serve, because that is the way to glorify God.

(T) Fifth. How should Christians serve people?

One. In Galatians 1:10 we read, “Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Christians should serve people not in order to please the people, but in order to win the approval of God. Therefore, Christians should *serve people not with what the people want, but with what the people need*.

Two. In 2 Corinthians 4:5 we read, “We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” Therefore, Christians should *serve people not for the people’s own sake, but for the sake of Jesus Christ* and the extension of his kingdom.

Three. In Ephesians 6:5-8 we read, “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ... Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.” Therefore Christians should *serve people in submission to the authority placed over them*, whether this authority is the government, an employer or the local church leaders.

Four. In Romans 14:13-18 we read that the kingdom of God is not a matter of keeping the letter of the Old Testament ceremonial law. The ceremonial law consisted of eating only certain foods that were regarded as “clean” and of observing certain festival days as “sacred”. However, the kingdom of God is a matter of serving people with righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Therefore, Christians should *serve people not with the strictness of rules and regulations, but with the loving guidance of the Holy Spirit*.

(S) Sixth. In which areas should Christians serve people?

One. Christians serve by living out the Christian life every day. Luke 1:74-75 says that Christians should serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness throughout their lifetime. Christians live out the Christian life every day by trusting God, by obeying God, by living a holy life and by doing what is right in God’s eyes.

Two. Christians serve by faithfully doing the task that God has assigned to them. Matthew 24:45-46 says, “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.” Christ gives every Christian a task in the church and a task in the world.

Three. Christians serve by generously sharing their possessions with needy people. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 says that the service of the Macedonian Christians was that they gave as much money as they were able to the poor Christians in Judea.

Four. Christians serve by proclaiming the gospel message to people. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 says that God gave the service of reconciliation to Christians. As ambassadors of Christ, Christians should proclaim the gospel to all people. The gospel is the message of reconciliation with God.

Five. Christians serve by faithfully using all the opportunities that God gives to them. Matthew 25:14-30 says that Christ has given every person at least one talent. People should make use of these talents and gain even more talents.

Six. Christians serve by diligently using their spiritual gifts to build one another up. 1 Peter 4:10 says, “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.”

(T) POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

Step 1. Meditate and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

Step 2. Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is "Serving". Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is Mark 10:45. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

Step 3. Memorise the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

Step 4. Review the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

Let us memorise the Bible verse together. Then let us take turns to say that part of the verse alone without looking at the Bible or notebook.

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(S) **POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED**

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.

Series "The gospel", verses 3-5, and series "Discipleship", verses 1-2.

(T) Atonement of sin. Romans 5:8. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8.

(S) Salvation is a gift. Ephesians 2:8-9. "For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast". Ephesians 2:8-9.

(T) Salvation by faith. John 1:12. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12.

(S) Lordship. Romans 12:1-2. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2.

(T) Denial. Luke 9:23. Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23.

(S) **POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and make disciples" and Internet on www etc.

Third. Listen on short wave radio every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to "Discipleship training on the air".