

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **Leadership Through Serving Others**

It is an honor to be called upon to serve God's people in any capacity. Psalms 84:10, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Our Lord Himself came to minister unto man, Matthew 20:28, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Every Christian should long to be a servant, yet in spite of our faithfulness to serve, there are some things that would go unattended if they are left to everybody's business. In reality they would become nobody's business. Thus God ordained that special servants (diakonoi -- table waiters) be appointed in the church. This is a broad word and refers to everything from "ministering angels" in Matt 4:11 to Martha serving supper in John 12:2. But it has special significance in 1 Timothy 3 when a distinctive set of servants are to be appointed in the churches.

Not every Christian is suited for this office. One must first be proven. Proven what? Dependable, faithful, willing. A man should not be expected to be made a deacon for the honor of office but for the specific assignment of work. You ruin a man to make a deacon of him and not have a work for him to do. Their work can be both spiritual, as with Stephen and Phillip in Acts 7 and 8, or it can be of a material nature, as in Acts 6.

Our elders have set before the congregation a group of 8 men who have now been accepted to serve in this special way. This speaks highly of each one of them. These 8 will be installed into the office of deacon at the morning service of this coming Lord's Day. They are: Al Evett, Jim Flowers, Ernie Foster, Roger Kime, C. B. Laney, Sonny Robertson, Phillip Street, and Brad Wilhelm. Gentlemen, the congregation has demonstrated that they respect you and trust you as spiritually minded men who can represent the church well in the many daily administrations. It is a serious challenge and a tremendous responsibility. Others are watching you for leadership attitudes. These eight will join our existing body of deacons bringing the number to 22. The other deacons are: Jim Anderson, Rick Baird, Jo Reed Brumley, Leroy Gist, Gene Hale, Tom Hancock, LarryHolland, Ed Jones, Bill Parks, Bob Rice, James Rice, Pat Russell, J. A. Sharp, and Ralph Sheppard.

Among all the things that are needed in the Lord's church at large, and at Broad Street as a local congregation, are spiritually minded leaders -- Men who will put an emphasis on evangelism in every detail of their job description. Jesus said that if we deliver even a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple we will not lose our reward (Matthew 10:42).

We ask you to view your roles with seriousness and dignity, even if they are as door keepers in the house of God, or maintenance experts, or benevolent crews, or advertising, or youth, or missions, or worship, or counting money, whatever it may be. Be a good steward. We are living in the greatest of times as for opportunity to serve. A world all around us is crying out with needs. You can just throw a dart and hit a need somewhere. So be faithful MINISTERS -- STEWARDS of the grace of life. "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:10).

..... Terry Broome

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