

# Servanthood

## The Examination of a Servant

Sunday Evening Bible Study  
May 22, 2016

### Servanthood Review

1. Servant: *“One who serves another, a person employed for domestic or personal work.”* Webster’s Dictionary
2. Three different names for servants.
  - a. Pais: *“son or servant, depending on context”*. A word of relationship.
  - b. Oikonomos: *“house steward”*. A word of responsibility.
  - c. Diaknos: *“servant”*. A word of activity.
3. Two Methods of Service from Luke 10:38-42
  - a. Martha: Begins with man’s plans, asks God to bless those plans, man gets the glory.
  - b. Mary: Begins with God’s will, the servant receives direction from the Lord, God gains the glory.
4. Service is like two trees that are rooted in two kinds of soil.
  - a. Service rooted in the world produces bitter fruit: jealousy, comparison, anger, busyness, frustration, etc.
  - b. Service rooted in the word produces good fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control, etc.

### The Final Exam of Life

1. How do we know where we are going, unless we first know our destination?
2. Wise servants plan their work and then work their plan. Luke 14:25-30.
3. As servants we will be examined.
  - a. *“Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.”*  
Luke 10:14
  - b. *“So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”* 2 Corinthians 5:9,10
4. The subject of our examination.
  - a. God will judge us, as to our faithfulness as servants.
  - b. *“Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw – each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test which sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.”* 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

5. The requirement of the examination.
  - a. The requirement for the servant of Christ is faithfulness or trustworthiness.
  - b. Pistis: *“faithful, trustworthy, dependable, inspiring trust or faith.”*
  - c. *“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.”* 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

### Rewards for Faithfulness

1. For the faithful servant we will one day see the sacrifices of time, talent, and treasure rewarded by the Lord.
2. Rewards for service are described as crowns in the New Testament.
3. Diadem: *“crown, a sign of royalty”* The crown worn by Christ. Revelation 19:12
4. Stephanos: *“wreath, prize, crown”* The wreath given to those in the Olympic games as a prize.
5. Believers receive crowns “stephanos” as reward for faithful service. Just as Olympic athletes receive gold, silver, or bronze medals for achievement.
6. Different types of crowns for the faithful servant.
  - a. An imperishable crown: *“Every athlete exercise self control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”* 1 Corinthians 9:25
  - b. A crown of life: *“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has withstood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”* James 1:12
  - c. A crown of righteousness: *“Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.”* 2 Timothy 4:8
  - d. A crown of glory: *“ So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you., exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”* 1 Peter 5:1-4.
7. Keeping the proper perspective. No pain, no gain.