



## “Serve and Tell”

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### **FAITH BUILDING THOUGHT – As we grow in Spiritual maturity, we also grow in practical ministry**

*1 Timothy 3:1-13 “The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”*

*Titus 1:5-11 “This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.”*

### **Disciples Grow in Ministry Competence**

2 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 2:1-8, 11-15

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Well

*1 Timothy 3:2 “Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach”*

**a. Hold firm to the trustworthy word (Titus 1:9)**

**b. Give defense for the hope (1 Peter 3:15-16)**

**c. Thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 2:14-17a)**

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Well

*Titus 1:8 “but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.”*

**a. Intentionally associating with others (Romans 12:10-16)**

**b. Simply meeting people’s needs (Matthew 25:31-46)**

**c. Recognizing Jesus in others**

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Well

*1 Timothy 3:13 “For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”*

**a. Reflecting Jesus (Mark 10:43b-45)**

**b. Responsible for what God gives (Romans 12:4-8)**

**c. Building up one another (Romans 15:1-2; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:12-13, 15-16, 29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)**



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## BACKGROUND:

At the core of discipleship, evangelism, and spiritual growth is the desire to serve God and others out of our devotion to Jesus. To “minister” means to serve. Every believer should be active in ministering to the needs of others (*Romans 12:3-13*). Paul points to certain qualifications that will equip a person to serve others well. Among those are: being dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain (*1 Timothy 3:8*). As Christians, we represent Jesus. Our character, integrity, mind, and actions should model His.

## DIGGING DEEPER:

**Jesus’ earthly mission was to serve God and others. He came to serve, not to be served (Matthew 20:28). Spiritual maturity will reveal itself as a life in service to God and others. As Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work” (John 4:34).**

1. Both Jesus and Paul are excellent examples of a life devoted to serving God and others. How does having a relationship with God result in a life of service?
2. In what specific ways do you serve God and others?
3. What are your spiritual gifts? How are they used to build up the body of believers?

**The Great Commission instructs us to do four things: to go, make disciples, baptize them, and teach them Jesus’ commands (Matthew 28:19-20). Teaching is at the heart of discipleship. Ultimately, it’s a gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6-7). Godly knowledge and a humble teachable spirit prepare us to influence others. The best teaching opportunities are found in relationships. We all have relationships that present opportunities to teach or be taught. The goal of teaching is for the pupil to become like the teacher (Luke 6:40).**

4. Can you name an individual who taught you important spiritual or life lessons?
5. What are some relationships where you enjoy the opportunity to teach others?
6. Paul was appointed as a teacher of the gospel (*2 Timothy 1:11*). Why does the apostle James warn us that not everyone should be teachers (*James 3:1*)?
7. Why is biblical teaching such an important responsibility?

The word in Greek from which we get our English word “hospitality” means “to love others”. This attribute is encouraged in both the Old and New Testaments (*Leviticus 19:33-34; Matthew 22:39; 25:34-36*). Jesus and his disciples relied on the hospitality of others throughout his ministry. To be hospitable is to show mercy on others. By showing mercy to others, we honor Christ. As the author of Hebrews said, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares (*Hebrews 13:2*). Abraham and Sarah had the opportunity to show hospitality to the LORD (*Genesis 18:1-8*).

8. How do we honor God when we are kind to the needy?
9. Who in your group has the spiritual gift of hospitality?
10. How does hospitality translate into acts of service? What does hospitality look like?

## TAKING IT HOME:

**Acts of service, teaching, and being hospitable are three ways in which we honor God and bless others. Our motivation in each case should arise from a devotion to God. This devotion pours out of our relationship with God and our knowledge of Him. As we grow closer to God our desire to please Him by blessing others grows proportionately.**

11. How can serving well allow us to gain great confidence in the faith (*1 Timothy 3:13*)?
12. As we consider the lives and ministries of Jesus and Paul, what can we learn from them about what it looks like to serve others?
13. How might serving others be an area of your faith that you need encouragement with? If that is the case, how can your group encourage you and be praying for you?