

The servants guidelines in Ministry

God is Taking Care of His Church

- And **He** Himself gave *some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,*
- **If we may ask why? For what purpose?**
- for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
- **What is the goal?**
- for the edifying of the body of Christ,

What is the Role of the Church?

- preparing and equipping servants
- Preparatory classes for servants are therefore not an invention of the church; but are biblically mandated having been practiced by Christ himself.
- However, completing a ready to serve program comprises only a small percentage of the equipping process.

It is a Continues Process

- Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both **yourself** and **those who hear you.**
- Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (1Tim4)

Who is Eligible for Service

- The disciples that the Lord had chosen were not among the Jewish elite. Rather, He had selected them from among the simple and the unknown who exhibited simplicity of life style, readiness, commitment and purity of heart.
- Taking our spiritual life seriously is what God requires to see in us.

How to Equip the Servants?

- Our Lord Jesus Christ, instituted the basic educational system of equipping the saints for the purpose of ministry through four basic approaches:
 - *Direct Teaching*
 - *Teaching by Example*
 - *Participation under Direct Supervision*
 - *Participation under Indirect Supervision*

1-Direct Teaching

- Many speeches and incidents were intended specifically and directly for the disciples
- *"...because it has been given for you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God"* (Matthew 13:11)
- Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people?*" Lk12:41

- **In the book of Acts we read how our Lord dedicated the period between the Resurrection and the Ascension to establish His teaching.**
- **after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

2-Teaching by Example

- Our Lord Jesus Christ used to take his disciples with him whenever and wherever He ministered.
- Thus they saw Him preach, heal, comfort and edify people.
- His example was imprinted on them and people recognized it clearly.

- the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; for even **the way you talk** gives you away." (Matt 26:73)
- Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that **they had been with Jesus.** (Acts 4:13)

3-Participation under Direct Supervision

- In the feeding of the multitude with five loaves and two fish (Luke 9:10-17)
- 1- consider feeding the multitude
- 2-face an obstacle
- 3- think of a solution
- 4- find one
- 5- fetch the food
- 6-seat the people in order of fifty
- 7- to collect the fragments

- beforehand that it was not within their physical capacity to feed a multitude of that size without supernatural intervention. **However, under his direct supervision,** He utilized the situation to teach them the importance of being

- **proactive,**
- **systematic,**
- **orderly,**
- **taking care of each and every one**

4-Participation Under Indirect Supervision

- He sent His disciples out on their own and expected some feedback. "*And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done*" (Luke 9:10)
- He was not in need of their reporting. The all knowing, all existing knew what they had been doing

- It was for their benefit and spiritual building that He had asked them to give an account of what they had accomplished in order to provide a chance for **correction** and **improvement**.
- In the disciples' response He saw a need for an immediate correction of a wrong perception. Taking them a step higher and deeper than their superficial evaluation of their accomplishment.

- Nevertheless **do not rejoice** in this, that the spirits are subject to you, **but rather rejoice** because your names are written in heaven.”
- Spiritual direction exists in the church, nowadays, through Spiritual Fathers. The need to listen to them is paramount. They are there to correct us, and we are to benefit from their advice.

What Else it Takes to Equip a Servant

- A servant's relation with God and the state of his inner man.
- Our Lord never quit praying even in His darkest moments in Gethsemane.
- Prayer
- Meekness of heart
- Humility
- The Word of God
- participation in the Holy Sacraments