FOLLOWER Message 22 July 30-31, 2011

"Jesus' Paradigm Shift"

Topical

"Paradigm Shift" = a major change in the way a person thinks about something

As we look at several passages in Luke, you will see that Jesus supplies **three convictions** that all believers need to hold about serving others.

 Conviction #1: ALL BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO BE <u>SERVANT</u> <u>LEADERS</u>.

Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. Luke 22:24-27 (New International Version)

The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: . . . ⁷ . . . of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. Philippians 2:5, 7 (Good News Bible)

What Does This Look Like Practically?

- I get my <u>attitude</u> right.
- I put my apron on; I choose to serve.
- I don't shy away from <u>distasteful</u> tasks.
- Conviction #2: SERVANT LEADERS MUST RISK USING WHATEVER RESOURCES GOD HAS GIVEN THEM TO INVEST THEIR LIVES FOR HIM, TRUSTING HIM FOR THE OUTCOME.

As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. ¹²He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.'... ¹⁵When he

returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. ¹⁶The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' ¹⁷And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' ¹⁹And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' ²⁰Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; ²¹for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' ²²He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? ²³Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'" Luke 19:11-23 (English Standard Version)

• Theme: We are <u>accountable</u> to God to invest our lives for Jesus.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ . . . 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

o Theme: If we trust God, we can <u>risk using</u> what He has given.

Two Fears that Keep Us from Risking

□ Fear of <u>failure</u> □ Fear of <u>loss</u>

Conviction #3: SERVANT LEADERS HUMBLE THEMSELVES TO OBEY WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

"Suppose one of you has a servant who is plowing or looking after the sheep. When he comes in from the field, do you tell him to hurry along and eat his meal? ⁸Of course not! Instead, you say to him, 'Get my supper ready, then put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may have your meal.' ⁹The servant does not deserve thanks for obeying orders, does he? ¹⁰It is the same with you; when you have done all you have been told to do, say, 'We are ordinary servants; we have only done our duty.'" Luke 17:7-10 (GNB)