

**WHAT KIND OF SERVANT AM I?
(1 Samuel 3:1-10)**

Introduction:

1. Samuel was an outstanding servant of the Lord in his day.
 - a. He was dedicated to the Lord by his mother before he was born.
 - b. He was given to Eli for GOD's service as soon as he was weaned.
 - c. He served Israel as high priest and judge.
2. The Lord called the boy Samuel one night after he was in bed.
 - a. Samuel ran to Eli thinking he had called him.
 - b. Eli told Samuel to say, "Speak Lord, for Your servant hears."
 - c. GOD then began revealing His will through Samuel.
3. Being a Christian and being a servant are one and the same thing.
4. Because they are servants, Christians preach the Gospel, care for the sick, feed the hungry, care for orphans and widows, build hospitals and schools and give themselves in service to their fellow man (Matt. 25:31-46).

Discussion:

- I. SEVERAL WORDS ARE TRANSLATED SERVANT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.
 - A. Diakonos means "servant, minister, attendant, or deacon."
 1. It is transliterated rather than translated when it refers to a specific office in the church (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8-13).
 2. In a general sense it can refer to any disciple, male or female.
 - B. Leitourgos means "one who discharges a public office at his own expense. a public servant, a minister."
 1. Christ is a "minister of the sanctuary and the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, not man" (Heb. 8:2).
 2. Earthly rulers are "GOD's ministers attending continually to this very thing" (Rom. 13:6).
 3. Angels are "ministering spirits sent forth to do service for those who will inherit salvation" (Heb. 1:14).
 - C. Huperetes means "an under-rower, a slave on an ancient ship that rowed under the direction of the slave master."

1. **GOD told Saul “...I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you” (Acts 26:16).**
2. **Paul commanded the Corinthians “Let a man so consider us as servants of GOD and stewards of the mysteries of GOD” (1 Cor. 4:1).**

D. Therapon means “an attendant, a servant, a medical healer.”

1. **Our English word “therapeutic” comes from the verb form.**
2. **The verb form is used to describe healing by Jesus (Matt. 12:10; Mark 6:5).**
3. **Compared to Christ the Son, Moses was only a servant in the house of GOD (Heb. 3:5,6).**

E. Doulos means “a slave, bondservant.”

1. **Paul often described himself as a bondservant of Christ (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Tit. 1:1).**
2. **James, Peter and Jude also referred to themselves as bondservants (Jam. 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:1; Jude 1).**
3. **The Parable of the Unprofitable Servant speaks of the service expected of a slave (Luke 17:7-10).**

II. A CENTURION WHO ASKED JESUS TO HEAL HIS SERVANT DEFINED WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SERVANT.

A. A centurion pleaded with Jesus to heal his servant who was “paralyzed and dreadfully tormented” (Matt. 8:5-9).

1. **Jesus agreed to come to heal him.**
2. **The centurion answered: “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go’ and he goes, and to another ‘Come’ and he comes, and to my servant ‘Do this’ and he does it.”**

B. Jesus complimented the centurion’s faith.

1. **Just as he commanded his subordinates, the centurion knew Jesus could command the disease to come out of his servant.**
2. **A servant is one who does the bidding of another; he obeys the commands of his superior.**

III. LET US NOTE SOME EXAMPLES OF GOOD SERVANTS.

- A. Phoebe was a servant (diakonon) of the church in Cenchrea (Rom. 16:1,2).**
- 1. Diakonon is translated, not transliterated, for here it means one who serves in a general sense.**
 - 2. Paul says she “has been a helper (succorer) of many.”**
- B. Epaphroditus was a servant (leitourgos) of the church at Philippi who ministered to Paul (Phil. 2:25-30).**
- 1. He was Paul’s brother and fellow soldier but Philippi’s messenger to Paul.**
 - 2. He became sick and nearly died on his mission.**
 - 3. Paul said: “Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service to me.”**
- C. The Lord Jesus Christ taught the true meaning of being a servant (Matt. 20:20-28).**
- 1. The mother of James and John wanted her sons to have the chief places in the kingdom.**
 - 2. Jesus taught His disciples should not be like Gentile rulers who lord it over their subjects.**
 - 3. He said, “Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant (diakonon). And whoever desires to be first, let him be your slave (doulos), just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**
 - 4. The Lord exemplified the true servant by giving up Heaven, coming to earth as a man, and dying the terrible death on the cross to save us from our sins (Phil. 2:5-9; 2 Cor. 8:9).**

Contribution:

- 1. The Eastern Shore congregation had 35 members who were all ministers.**
- 2. Franklin Camp said entered the ministry at the age of 12 when he was baptized into Christ.**
- 3. Let us live so that we will hear the Lord say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.... Enter into the joy of your Lord” (Matt. 25:21,23).**
- 4. We need to ask, “What kind of servant am I?”**

