

God's Call to Consecrated Service (A Sermon in Song)

Intro: Worship can have many goals—certainly to thank and glorify God for His blessings; but also to exhort and teach one another. In fact the song commands of the Scripture urge us to do just that:

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16, NASB)

Today we are admonishing each other in song to live a life of service to God and others. Paul exhorted the Romans in view of the justification they had receive through Jesus Christ to live a life of consecrated service to God:

“I URGE you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. (Romans 12:1, NASB)

Many of our songs express the need and our desire to be consecrated to the Lord's service. Let's sing some of them together:

Take My Life and Let it be #669 (v. 1,2,3)

Of course in order for life to be consecrated to God we must have the mindset of complete surrender to the Lord.

All to Jesus I surrender #662 (v. 1,2,3 then chorus)

We must let God shape us into the person He wants us to be. We must be pliable like clay in the potter's hands.

Have thine own way, Lord #552 (v. 1,3)

These songs express our approach to God--to be consecrated to Him, fully surrendered, yielded and still, waiting to do His will.

But why should we be consecrated to the Lord's service?

God has given us reasons to be consecrated servants.

We should be consecrated to the Lord because of the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

In the verse we read earlier Paul wrote, “I beseech you by the mercies of God.” Think of what the Lord has done for each of us:

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6–8)

Savior, Thy Dying Love #667 (v. 1,2,3)

Lord's Supper

We most commonly refer to Jesus' life as a “ministry.” That word reminds us that Jesus came to serve not only the purpose of God, but to serve His creatures. Jesus was compelled by the apostle's behavior to stress the

importance of service. He spoke of how that greatness in the kingdom of God is not based on lordship or benefaction, but upon service.

It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

But he then pointed to himself as the supreme example of that service:

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:26–28, NASB)

That truth was powerfully brought to their minds in the last supper when after listening to the disciples quarrel about who was greatest, Jesus girded himself with a towel, and performing the duty of a slave washed their feet. He wanted them to see that the service of washing their feet was but a metaphor for what he was doing for them spiritually.

*“And so He *came to Simon Peter. He *said to Him, “Lord, do You wash my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him, “What I do you do not realize now, but you shall understand hereafter.” Peter *said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”” (John 13:6–8, NASB)*

He had come to make them clean from the defilement of sin, to wash them not merely in water, but figuratively in His own blood.

And so that very night after teaching these lessons, he took the bread and fruit of the vine and gave them to His disciples as a reminder of the greatest service He would render for them all, and for us as well.

“And while they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:26–28, NASB)

As we observed the Lord’s Supper we were reminded of the service Jesus rendered to us. So let’s think about what that means for us.

Because of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, we have been purchased by His blood to be His servants.

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20, NASB)

I am Thine Oh Lord #666 (v. 1,2)

Because Jesus died for us, we could say we have also died to live for Him.

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.” (Galatians 2:20, NASB)

We sing that great truth in:

Living for Jesus #676 (v. 1,2)

Because of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, we should follow His example of service. Consider this reading:

The Discipleship Medley #673

Jesus calls us to follow His example, to let the beauty of His character be seen in us:

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5–8, NASB)

Let us also have Jesus’ attitude of humble service.

Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen #722 (1,2,3)

How is that consecrated life revealed?

By teaching the lost like Jesus

““For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”” (Luke 19:10, NASB)

Seeking the lost #624 (v. 1,3)

By serving others like Jesus

Love one another #719 (v. 1,3)

Invitation: Jesus sends forth to us a call to follow Him in service. He seeks to serve us by removing our sins and giving us a new life. Will you today come to the Lord and begin that life of service?

#917 (v. 1,2,3)