

06.22.2008 (Sun)

Diakonia (Ac 20:22-24)

*Diakonia* means *service* and *ministry*. There can be many kind of service and ministry but all is for the same Lord. All is for the glory of God. The work Martha mentioned in Lk 10:40 was a sort of domestic duty, but nonetheless *diakonia*.

The offices of deacon or elder are part of the ministry of Spirit since they're given by God for His glory. So the *ministry* of Spirit in 2 Cor 3:8 is also *diakonia* as well as that of the angels in Heb 1:14. The serving as in service in Rom 12:7 and Eph 4:12 is *diakonia*.

So we have a ministry of living worthy of the gospel of Christ (Php 1:27).

**(1) Ministry of wisdom.** What does it mean by the ministry of wisdom? Well, we are talking about the wisdom of God. And, His wisdom is ministry God's will.

Holy wisdom is required to make the most of every opportunity *for* the Lord. To the one who understands the will of the Lord time won't be wasted. Indeed, Eph 5:15-17 says that a believer is to understand the will of the Lord to live wisely.

*Wisdom is worship.* Wisdom, according to King Solomon, is the fear of the Lord and knowledge of the Holy One is understand (Prov 9:10). Why is that? *Because knowing God leads to worship.* Truly knowing God equates with living *in* Him, *with* Him and *by* Him. Look at the Apostles like Peter and Paul. They received the Holy Spirit and that's how they lived.

The Holy Spirit helps you to understand what the Lord's will *is* for you (1 Cor 2:10). Joshua had a mission and it was to defeat the Amorites on a certain day (Jos 10). For the victory of Israel he needed more light. So he prayed to have more light.

His prayer was powerful and sincere. The sun and the moon stopped (Jos 10:12-14). Well, the earth, stopped, in reality. God heard his prayer and the nation of darkness Amorite was defeated.

**(2) Ministry of purpose.** In Judges 13 we meet Samson, whose name means "sunny." Wherever he went he brought God's light and brightened people's lives. The Lord said "You are the light of the world" and "You are the salt of the earth." He wants us to shine the light of His word everywhere we go.

If you lose this ministry then you lose your purpose in life. Be light to your family. Be light to your work. Be light to your community. Listen to Paul saying "So whether you

eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” in 1 Cor 10:31-33. “For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord” (Rom 14:7-8).

**(3) Ministry of faith.** You serve because of the gospel. You put your effort for the gospel. You give your life for the gospel. Because You believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord’s ministry became your ministry. For this reason, you cannot be wasted on things that have nothing to do with the will of God.

This was the reason why Paul said with confidence after being met by the risen Lord. “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace” (Ac 20:24).

You won’t sway or fall into temptations as long as you believe in the mission that the Lord has given you. You’ll keep your place of worship and prayer. For it is the heavenly life.

Samson had an amazing strength to worship God. He was *entrusted* with the secret things of God but couldn’t overcome the temptations of the Delilah, the woman of darkness (Jud 16:15-17). For he got weakened in honoring God by not keeping *his* place of worship and prayer.

**(4) Ministry of God’s power.** The power of God leaves you when you lose your ministry. Samson didn’t live up to the ministry of judge. In fact, he put himself before the ministry of God and he spilled the beans when woman continued to press him to the point he couldn’t take it anymore.

His eyes were gouged out (Jud 16:21). What does it mean besides the obvious point of pain and helplessness? Lack of seeing the direction of God. He lost his directions. He doesn’t know where to turn to. It’s just dark everywhere. There’s no light in his life. So we can say that it is night when you lose your ministry. Discover the your ministry!

Thoughts and decisions without God’s direction bring gloomy and hopeless prospects. Jesus said “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” We must hold on to Jn 8:12 and live for His purpose. Otherwise, “night is coming, when no one can work” (Jn 9:4).

**(5) Ministry of prayer.** Samson killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of donkey. Then he was thirsty. He felt like dying of thirst. So he “cried out,” meaning he prayed (Jud 15:18). God opened up a hollow place and water came out, and Samson drank the cool and sweet water from it (Jud 15:19).

In Genesis we see that the woman was made from a bone, Adam’s rib in particular, but in Judges we see the water coming out from a bone. You see, the place where Samson prayed was *Lehi*, meaning “jawbone.”

Bone is hard and strong. Likewise, our faith must be strong to drink from the water of life that God gives. Before I conclude I want you to observe the process of restoration. Let us read Jud 15:19.

“Then God opened up the hollow place in Lehi, and water came out of it. When Samson drank, his strength returned and he revived. So the spring was called En Hakkore, and it is still there in Lehi.”

Focus on the phrase ‘his strength returned and he revived.’ It is more of Samson’s spiritual strength than his physical condition. Your soul and spirit need strength. It’s called spirituality. Your spirituality depends on your prayer life. You see, *En Hakkore* means ‘*Spring of the caller.*’ God opens opportunities of revival whenever we pray!

If your spirituality is weak, then you lose your inner strength and your life becomes weak, making you an easy target for Satan (1 Pet 5:8-9). Satan hates people who receive the word of God. He hates people who come to understand the words they’ve received. Moreover, Satan hates people who receive the Holy Spirit and do the ministry of gospel.

*When you don’t pray you lose your ministry of family. When you don’t pray you lose your ministry of gospel! So why don’t we pray sincerely?*