

6 August 2017

Seeing the Bigger Picture

Love Never Fails (1 Cor 13:8)

Nothing matters without love (Agape)

- A. If you don't live a life of love, then nothing you SAY will matter;
- B. If you don't live a life of love, then nothing you KNOW will matter;
- C. If you don't live a life of love, then nothing you BELIEVE will matter;
- D. If you don't live a life of love, then nothing you GIVE will matter;

"NOTHING MATTERS WITHOUT LOVE" (Agape)

**For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son ...
John 3 v 16**

Sermon Title: What is it to be "a servant of the Lord?"

Scripture: Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

"Servant of the Lord." Genesis 12 v 2 & 3 God's Covenant with Abram

I will make you a great Nation

I will bless you

And make your name great

And you will be a blessing ...

And in you (Abraham) all the families (you and I included) of the earth shall be blessed.

Covenant Partners

Abraham was called God's friend - 2 Chron 20 v 7

Moses was called God's friend - Ex 33 v 11

Example: Eliezer ... Genesis chapter 24 - (a bride for Isaac)

- A. Eliezer: was a servant of his master -Abraham
- B. Eliezer: was a praying man -he made prayer a priority
- C. Eliezer: spoke openly with God
- D. Eliezer: responded to God
- E. Eliezer: was a patient man v 21- he remained silent (Isa 40:31)
- F. Eliezer: ... was a man of excellence - The servant of his Master v 65
"IT IS MY MASTER"

EXCELLING AT WHAT YOU DO

The 2008 Summer Olympics gave a dramatic display of the pursuit of excellence. Those who participated were peak performers in each category. What are the characteristics of people who excel at what they do? The Bible identifies five characteristics of people who excel and make it to the top:

1. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL WORK WITH ENTHUSIASM. Emerson once said, “Nothing great has ever been accomplished without enthusiasm.” Regardless of whether the job is big or small, give it your best. Great performers give their best effort, no matter the size of the audience: *“Whatever your task is put your whole heart and soul into it, as work done for the Lord, and not merely for men.”* Colossians 3:23.

2. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL SHARPEN THEIR SKILLS. They never stop developing ... growing ... learning ... improving. *“If the axe is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.”* Ecclesiastes 10:10. It takes more than desire to excel, it takes skill! Remember: You’re never wasting time when you’re sharpening your “axe.”

3. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL KEEP THEIR WORD. They are reliable. They can be counted on to do what they say they’ll do. So they excel because people of integrity are rare in our society: *“Everyone talks about how loyal and faithful they are, but just try to find someone who really is!”* Proverbs 20:6 GN.

4. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE. Even under pressure ... or change ... or unrealistic demands, they don’t allow themselves to become negative. Complainers never excel at anything except complaining. *“Do all things without grumbling or arguing ... and you will shine out like a light in a dark world.”* Philippians 2:14–15. And remember: *“If your boss is angry with you, don’t quit! A quiet spirit will quiet his bad temper.”* Ecclesiastes 10:4 LB.

5. PEOPLE WHO EXCEL DO MORE THAN IS EXPECTED. This is a secret that every successful person has discovered. You’ll never excel by doing what is required – the bare minimum. Jesus said, *“If anybody forces you to go a mile with him, do more, go two miles with him.”* Matthew 5:41

The Broadway lyricist Oscar Hammerstein once told the story of seeing the top of the Statue of Liberty from a helicopter. What impressed him was the incredible detail the artist had sculpted on an area of the statue that no one was expected to see. The artist had no idea that man would someday be able to fly over his statue!