

## “We Have Only Done our Duty”

Jesus selected twelve men who He would appoint “Apostles.” They would be the authoritative human voices through whom Christ would build His church. He would remind them that as an Envoy Himself from the Father, He had not come from Heaven to terrify them, but to call them His “friends.” He called God His Own Father, but He also taught them to pray as children of God themselves. He even told them that they would one day occupy thrones of judgment over the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus honored the Twelve adequately enough and often enough that they should have never felt demeaned by anything else that He might ever say to them. So, as we can well imagine, every once in a while, Jesus’ disciples might need needed their perspectives fine-tuned:

<sup>7</sup>“Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat?’  
<sup>8</sup>Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink?’<sup>9</sup>Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?<sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’ – Luke 17:7-10

There are more dimensions to our relationship with Christ than just the perks. Jesus identified Himself as a Servant, and He *NEVER* seemed to lose touch with that sense of calling. The Path of the Servant is the only path to greatness in God’s kingdom. It is a given that the world does not understand Servanthood, or, for that matter, greatness in God’s eyes. What is more troubling by far is that many who profess to know Christ seem to be content to bask in the perks and safety they perceive, while openly scoffing at the notion of serving Christ according to the gifts the Spirit bestows on all true believers. There may be a number of surprises on the Day of Judgment. There may be a number of hasty attempts at some “fancy explainin’.”

It has been a number of years since our last *Talent and Interest Survey*. A new one will be available for distribution this Sunday. Sometimes, the easiest way to discover what one has been uniquely gifted by God to do is to simply present oneself as a servant and to try a variety of things. We are currently in the process of evaluating existing ministries with a view toward trying to determine how God has distributed interests and gifts among us. Obviously, the full cooperation of every member of the community will provide us with the most complete collection of that information.

<sup>12</sup>The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

<sup>14</sup> Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. – 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

We are many things in Christ. But, to be the church in this world that Jesus, the Head of the Body, envisions, it is essential that we see ourselves as one community of servants ...each and every one of us.