August 25, 2020

You're Gonna Serve Somebody
Love and Humility

Mark 10:42-45
Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Bob Dylan said , "You're gonna serve somebody." While he may not be a top selling theology author, he's right. It may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you're gonna serve somebody.

In this scripture Jesus refers to the Gentiles - or the world system - and says the way they do it is to serve themselves. That's the devil's way of doing things. He convinced Adam and Eve to serve themselves, making them the first servants of him. The world hasn't changed in all these thousands of years. People still naturally serve themselves, and by doing so, put a smile on the devil's face.

Who do you want to please? The devil or the Lord? The spoken answer is likely easily agreed upon by followers of Christ. The active answer is more difficult to do. It requires great love and humility.

Love for God makes us obey him (serving others). Love for others makes us serve them (obeying God). Humility allows us to value others as more important than ourselves. Humility also positions us to receive God's grace - for he gives grace to the humble while resisting the proud (James 4:6). Humility also sets us up to be exalted (I Peter 5:6). Pride sets us up to be brought low (Proverbs 16:18).

Do I want to please God? Do I want to show him how much I love Him? Do I want to obey him and both serve and love the world around me? Do I want to have God lift me up so I stay there, or does lifting myself up only to be brought low by God sound more attractive?

Again, the spoken answers are EASY. May we strive in Holy Spirit's power to put these desires into action.