

Lesson
4

Worship in Service

My grandmother had gone to a woman's house and witnessed to her about Jesus. The woman shouted at Grandma, "Don't you ever come back to my house! I never want to hear about Jesus again!"

When my grandmother told me about it, I said, "That woman was very rude to you, Grandma. But you have done your part in witnessing and there is nothing more that you need to do."

"I already did more," she replied. "I baked an apple pie and took it to her."

I learned an important lesson from those words. Often I had seen my grandmother worship the Lord in prayer, her hands lifted as she sang, "We'll give all the glory to Jesus, and tell of His wonderful love." But that day I realized how she did more than witness or worship in words and song. She worshiped the Lord in her actions.

If we say that we love Jesus, our deeds must also show that love.

In this lesson you will study . . .

Total Service

Attitudes in Service



This lesson will help you . . .

- Compare the servant qualities in the life of Christ with those present in your own life.
- Describe the attitudes which are necessary to make service an act of worship.
- Appreciate the importance of worshiping God through service.

TOTAL SERVICE

Objective 1. *Describe ways we can worship the Lord through serving others.*

“When do you NOT work for the Lord?” a young man asked. “Surely you have some free days once in a while.”

The man thought Christianity is something you do, but being a believer is not an eight-hour-a-day job; it is a new life. Our service to God is as much a part of our lives as breathing is to being alive. We don’t want to serve Him with just part of our talents or time, or only when we feel like it, but always—with all our heart, mind, and body. Total service is being able to say, “Here I am, Lord. Use me anytime, anywhere, and under any circumstance.” Remember that Romans 12:1 says we are offering true worship when we are dedicated to His service.

The greatest example of total commitment is Jesus Christ Himself. He had to eat, sleep, exercise, and rest just like any of us. But His heart and mind were constantly ready to do the work of His Father (John 15:10). He was always serving others.

He served by helping people spiritually. He taught them, prayed for them, and even wept for them. He cared for their physical needs as well. Never did He turn away the sick and afflicted.

One day He raised the dead son of a poor widow from Nain who had no one else who could provide for her. He even prepared fish over the fire for the weary and hungry disciples who had worked hard at fishing from their boats the whole night through.

He served the lonely and rejected folk just by being with them. He accepted dinner invitations to be with men and women who were not loved by their community. He befriended sinners. Jesus, the Son of God, served His own creation—mankind.

Should we try to do less? No, we must make it our goal to be like Jesus. Perhaps the Lord has not given you the ministry of service through teaching or preaching, but you do have the ability to be a compassionate, loving Christian. People need to know that someone cares, and your caring may help another person to realize that God cares.

Worship through service means offering ourselves, all that we are and all that we have. It means giving of our time and our abilities. We can say a kind word, give a friendly smile, or visit those who are in the hospital. The Lord wants us to be willing to share with others who are in want. Whether we are rich or whether we are poor, in need or not in need, we must be ready to give and to share as the Lord leads.

The Bible doesn’t say, “Do witnessing.” It says, “Be witnesses” (Acts 1:8). If you want to be a witness in every action and deed, bow your head as you read this prayer to the Lord.

“Dear Father, my desire is to worship You, not only in words but in everything I do. Before I react to any situation or make any decision, I pray that Your precious Holy Spirit will tell me what would be pleasing to You. Then, Lord, help me to carry out your directions.

Let your love shine through me in such a way that others will want to be like Jesus too. Amen.”



For You To Do

1 Read the verses in the left column. In front of each reference listed, write the number of the type of service it matches.

REFERENCE	TYPE OF SERVICE
.... a Matthew 8:1-3	1) Feeding the hungry
.... b Matthew 8:23-26	2) Protecting and removing fear
.... c Luke 19:1-6	3) Healing the sick
.... d John 6:1-13	4) Providing physical comfort
.... e John 13:1-15	5) Accepting those who feel rejected

2 Read James 2:14-17, then complete the following sentence. Faith alone is not enough, but must be proven by our

3 Read the following imaginary situations. Write below each a short description of the action you would take in order to show worship in service.

- a Your pastor explains to the congregation the urgent need for a new church building.
.....
.....
- b Your neighbor is very ill and there is no one to care for the family.
.....
.....

Check your answers.

ATTITUDES IN SERVICE

Objective 2. *Name three attitudes every believer should have when worshipping the Lord through service.*

When the prophet Samuel wanted to anoint a handsome young man as king of Israel, the Lord stopped him with these words: "I do not judge as man judges. Man looks at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Our outward appearance includes our actions as well as our physical features. Sometimes our actions are not what we mean them to be. We may be given a job to do and it doesn't turn out as well as we had hoped. But we can find comfort in knowing that God sees our hearts and knows what we really wanted to do for Him.

He also sees if we try to do Christian acts without having true interest in what we are doing. The finest actions do not count as worship if our attitudes are not right. The Bible gives us helpful guidelines for proper thoughts and motives, some of which we will look into now.

We are going to talk first about serving the Lord cheerfully and gladly, and not just because we think we ought to. Our giving and sharing can be happy experiences. The Bible says that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Giving in the name of the Lord is the Christian's privilege.

Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause (2 Corinthians 9:7-8).

We can see that God gives abundantly. Flowers and sunsets could be called gifts from God. The Bible says that He gives generously for our enjoyment (1 Timothy 6:17). As we give cheerfully, it becomes easier for us to also give generously, even as Romans 12:8 tells us, “Whoever shares with others should do it generously.” We don’t give just enough to ease a troubled conscience, but we give as we feel that the Lord would have us to give.

Giving as unto the Lord:

CHEERFULLY
GENEROUSLY *humbly*

We may give cheerfully and generously, but the Bible touches on one other area of giving. We will introduce it in story form. Let’s imagine you received some extra money and the Lord impressed you to give part of it to a small mission on the edge of town. This you did gladly and generously. Later you heard some of its members rejoicing in how God had provided for their needs, but your name was not mentioned. It sounded as if the money had dropped out of the sky instead of from your hand. How would you feel?

Probably the natural reaction would be to feel a bit resentful. We like to receive credit for what we have done. To want to be appreciated isn’t all bad. But Jesus told us how to give that we would receive an even greater reward.

When you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you (Matthew 6:3-4).

The Lord was speaking here of humility, of giving that is free from pride, free from the desire of people’s praise. Giving as unto the Lord is the kind of giving that He rewards.

Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands—all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you (Luke 6:38).

Some of our reward may come here on earth. But our greatest reward will be given to us when we stand before the Lord on the day He thanks us for all we have done for Him. He gave us a glimpse of that day in Matthew 25:34-40.

Then the King will say to the people on his right, ‘Come you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me!’ The righteous will then answer him, ‘When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!’ (Matthew 25:34-40).



Isn't that a beautiful passage of Scripture? Even if you do something for someone who is ungrateful, who wouldn't repay you with a word of thanks, it doesn't matter. The Lord who sees everything remembers and counts your kindness as being done for Him. In view of our eternal rewards, giving cheerfully, generously, and humbly comes easier—and the Lord will help us if it seems a bit hard sometimes. He will give us the grace and strength that we need.



For You To Do

- 4 Read Matthew 5:34-48. Who is our example of cheerful and generous giving?
- 5 According to Revelation 22:12, the Lord isand will bring rewards to give each one according to
- 6 Read Luke 14:12-14.
 - a What kind of people did Jesus tell His host to invite for dinner?
.....
.....
 - b Who will repay him for what he does?
.....
.....
- 7 What are the three basic attitudes we should have as we worship the Lord through service?
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.....

Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for *UNIT ONE*. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page of your study guide.



Check Your Answers

- 1 a** 3) Healing the sick.
b 2) Protecting and removing fear.
c 5) Accepting those who feel rejected.
d 1) Feeding the hungry.
e 4) Providing physical comfort.
- 5** coming soon,
what he or she has done.
- 2** works (or actions).
- 6 a** Poor, crippled, lame, blind.
b God.
- 3 a** Your answer. You could give money above your tithes, donate building materials, or give free labor on the new building.
b Your answer. You could take care of the children, provide food, find someone who could help, or take up a collection for them. Remember that kind deeds done in the name of the Lord are a form of worship.
- 7** Cheerfulness, generosity, and humility.
- 4** Our Father in heaven.