

## **The Associate**

Second-class, second-hand, second level, below, under, assistant, helper, supporter, aide, and more- all these words carry the popular meaning of “not as important, substandard, second-hand, and not the best quality.” A lot of times people only want to be the assistant or vice-president long enough to climb the ladder and step the stone for the “real job” of being on top and in control.

But is this how God sees it?

### **A Testimony**

I was in a shipping department several years ago and one of my co-workers was complaining that he did not know what his job title was. All of the employees were packing boxes. The supervisor listened to the guy go on and on. Finally the supervisor said, “You are a *Do What*. You do what I say when I say it!” That is what an Associate is in a nutshell- a Do What.

### **Lifestyle Servants**

Paul had a servant’s mentality. He shared his “whatever it takes” attitude this way: “To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel’s sake.” *1 Corinthians 9:22-23*

The servants Paul depended on all shared this view. At the end of each of his letters, he would commend and appreciate these servants. (*See Romans 16 and 1 Corinthians 16*).

Paul went on to elaborate his view of a servant. He called it “The mind (attitude, demeanor) of Christ. See *Philippians 2*.

### **Who Gets To See the Miracle?**

In the Marriage at Cana, when Jesus performed his first public miracle, only the servants- the officials- knew the source of how the water turned to wine. (*See John 2:1-11*).

In the story of *Matthew 8:5-13* it was the Centurion that received a miracle of a healed servant because he understood how the chain of command worked. This amazed Jesus!

### **The True Power Wielder**

In *Exodus*, who had the most power- Pharaoh or Meek Moses?

Was Joshua, the name sake of the *Book of Joshua*, always the great General of the Faith? He is recorded to be Moses minister in *Exodus 24:13*.

Elisha did amazing miracles, but his start was as Elijah's minister in 1 Kings 19:19-21.

"Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." *Matthew 5:5*

### **The Apron & Towel**

In the Upper Room during the Last Supper, the chief servant was in action (*See John 13*). Jesus' example is powerful. He also gave guidance.

"If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."  
*John 13:14-17*

### **Yours, Mine and God's**

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." *1 Corinthians 4:2*

"As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, *so is* a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters." *Proverbs 25:13*

"And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? *Luke 16:12*

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." *Luke 6:38*

### **Conclusion- Spiritual Gravity**

As we have seen, the way Up is actually the way Down. If you survive the descent, God can really use you!

"But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last *shall be* first." *Matthew 19:30*