

THE ANATOMY OF A CHRISTIAN STEWARD

XIII. A Spirit That Serves

II Corinthians 5:14

You may not know it, but at Texas A&M the entire student body stands throughout their entire home football games. It is a great tradition and an impressive sight.

It all began in 1922 when the Aggies were headed for the conference championship. They were playing in Dallas and had several players taken from the game with injuries. During half-time the coach wasn't sure that he would have eleven healthy players to put on the field. Looking up in the stands he motioned for King Gill (a basketball player) to come down to the field.

There were no locker rooms, so he put a jersey on him right there. King Gill stood there throughout the second half as the 12th man, so that if they didn't have 11 men to put on the field, he would be ready to play. He stood there, the entire second half, saying, "Coach, if you need me, I'm ready to play." Ever since then the students at Texas A&M have stood and cheered through the entire game. It is their way of saying, "Coach, if you need me, I'm ready to play."

This event is a moving testimony to the spirit of the Aggies and their love for the school's tradition. In our church however, we need more than having members to stand. We need willingness and involvement. We believe that the Holy Spirit is calling all of us to serve and sacrifice – to be ministers in the New Testament sense.

Remember the Lord's question through David, "Who is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord." (I Chronicles 29:5) It is the question He is asking us today. Our answer must be the same as the children of Israel – they took action; they came forward; they gave; they sacrificed; they served.

We need more than a handful of players on the field while others stand and cheer. We need for every member to be willing to serve – to be involved personally. We need sacrifice by every one of us!

We need the "spirit" that says, "Lord, I'm ready to give and to serve when you need me and wherever you need me." And then DO IT! This is our privilege.

When God places His hand on us, which He does on every follower, there are two common reactions:

One is that we are unable and unworthy. We do not have the talents and abilities to meet the demands. We are unworthy. Our lives do not measure us to the demands. Like Isaiah we feel that we are sinful and not worthy. True – unworthy, but chosen.

The second common reaction is to resist His calling us to be His servants. Yes, servants! The King James translation uses the term “ministry” and “ministers”. In today’s world this has become a technical term for the professionals. Actually it means “servant”.

- A lot of men react by saying, “Here am I Lord, send my wife.”
- Still others say, “I love my Savior. There is nothing I wouldn’t do for Him.” And that is exactly what they do – nothing.
- On the other hand some paraphrase the hymn:
“I’ll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,
I’ll say what you want me to say,
But, I’m busy right now for myself, dear Lord,
I’ll help you some other day.”

With all of our limitations and excuses we still hear His call and are responsible to Him for doing His will. He counts on you and others like you to fulfill His mission here where you live.

We may not serve Him as Paul did – a missionary and preacher – but we can as a dedicated lay person.

We can serve our Savior by our:

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| • Walk | • Witness | • Words |
| • Work | • Worship | • Worth |

If you saw the CBS-TV movie, “The Christmas Without Snow,” you will remember the scene where a soprano walked out of choir practice because she didn’t get a solo part in the Messiah. As she left, she threw her music at the director and screamed to the choir, “You’re all a bunch of amateurs; I’m a professional.”

The director then said to the choir: “I agree with her. All of you are amateurs. But the word amateur comes from the Latin amare, meaning “to love.”

He explained that an amateur is one who does something for the love of it, not for pay or prestige or recognition.

This is our motive – love. As the Bible Says: “The love of Christ compels us.” (II Corinthians 5:14) Or as one translation put it, “The love of Christ leaves me no other

choice." His love leaves us no choice but to serve Him with all our heart because we love Him.

The question: We shall be judged not only by what we have done, but by what we could have done! Where is the fruit of your love?

*Lord, I love you and want to serve you with a spirit of total commitment.
Lord, that includes whatever you want to do through me
during Stewardship Enrichment for our church, because I love you.*