



Service and the Balanced Servant

Signs of an unbalanced servant

- May know every verse in the Bible, and may know all the hymns and rites and may sound like an angel and yet...
- is also very good at driving people away from church.
- Like the Pharisees: They were “experts” and yet they put heavy burdens on the people and were ultimately an OBSTACLE in the way of these people building a relationship with God.
- Story of a preacher in the 20’s-30’s
- Their goal is not that all people would repent and walk to Salvation, but that they would need him or her.

Our Ultimate Example

- Fed the 5000 men + until “they were all filled” but He also said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” (John 6:12)
- Before raising Lazarus, He didn’t preach, when He saw them weeping, He wept with them
- When the disciples drove away the children, He told them no let them come unto Me.

Signs of a balanced servant

- Is very approachable!
- Remembers: "These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone." (Matthew 23:23)
- Is fully aware that we are all vandalized works of art.



Signs of a balanced servant

- Has a clear goal حَيْثُ لَا رُؤْيَا يَجْمَحُ الشَّعْبُ
“Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Prov. 29:18)
- Big Companies → at the beginning of their fiscal year → one year goal, 5 year goal...
- When plowing...
- Servants
 - For the lesson
 - For the visitation



Having a clear goal is good, but is the goal appropriate?

- Example: A person who wants to pile up as much \$ as possible by retirement, has a clear goal, but is it appropriate?
- The man with the box of gold in the field
- Example of a clear but inappropriate goal for a servant is for the service to be “successful” (the kids read a book a month, know difficult hymns, memorize everything and win the annual festival contest...etc) → Should be a true love relationship with God

Clear appropriate goals and sub-goals

- Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)
- “His righteousness” = living the Kingdom of God here on earth:
 - Living in love, service, humility
 - Meeting others’ needs and enabling them to meet their own needs
 - Educating others and helping them to put their foot on the narrow path...etc
- “Seek first” NOT “seek only”. It’s ok to have those sub-goals but all in light of the main first goal, otherwise, they will have no taste
- The sub-goals should not be the main goals:
Job→married→kids→raise them→job→married...

Objectives and Targets

- A balanced servant has two main objectives:
 - His Kingdom
 - His righteousness.
- All the rest are targets and should satisfy 5 requirements SMART:
 - Specific
 - Measurable
 - Achievable
 - Realistic / Reasonable
 - Time Limited

Examples of Target SMART Requirements

- Specific: Reading the Bible / praying the Agpeya.
- Measurable: I need to know if I succeeded or not (read the 4 Gospels over the summer / memorize 5 verses or 10 verses)
- Achievable: St. Arthenius [Arsenius] vs.
 - Go somewhere private / quite, gather thoughts, maybe a hymn
 - Read a chapter in the Bible
 - Pray a certain part / hour in the Agpeya
 - Pray “free style” talk one on One with God
 - Do it all in 20 – 30 minutes

Examples of Target SMART Requirements

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable:
- Realistic / Reasonable: the Festival is in the summer & Bible Study sheet in Spring / Fall
- Time Limited: Only the objectives are indefinite, targets need to be time limited
 - Pray Thanksgiving & Psalm 50 daily for 1 month
 - Then add one psalm for 1 month
 - Then add the conclusion for 1 month
 - Then make it 3 psalms for 1 or 2 months
 - And so on...

A balanced servant knows self i.e. has a balanced view of self

- Humility ≠ a negative view of myself
 - Due to how we were raised (home or school)
 - Due to a misunderstanding of the humility of the saints in our Church. We make what they did our goal, even though it was the result of their humility not the cause of it.
- Humility = acknowledge the good in me, but give all the credit to God to created me and gave all of it to me... for His objective.
- When a person has a balanced view of self, neither positive nor negative comments send him soaring over the clouds or deep in the abyss. (Abouna's comments to Fr. Cherubim)
- If I receive a criticism → (is there any truth in this?)
 - A crown for struggling
 - If we don't, our children will repeat it at higher levels
 - Abraham (1/2) → Isaac (full) → Jacob (many)
- When something bothers me, it is a great opportunity to better know myself.

A balanced servant knows self i.e. has a balanced view of self

- If we receive a compliment → (is there any truth in this?)
 - He brought me into being when I was not.
 - Created me in His image
 - It's not to feel good about myself, it's for a purpose / mission.
- What is my value?
 - Kids → the brand of my shoes / cell phone
 - We do the same
 - A balanced servant Focuses on the unseen "we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal." (2nd Corinthians 4:18)
 - When value is misplaced → overcompensating (clothes, cars, jewelry, exercising)
- I am a child of the King and I should go about my Father's business:
 - His kingdom, His righteousness, to know Him and to make Him known, I decrease and He increase.