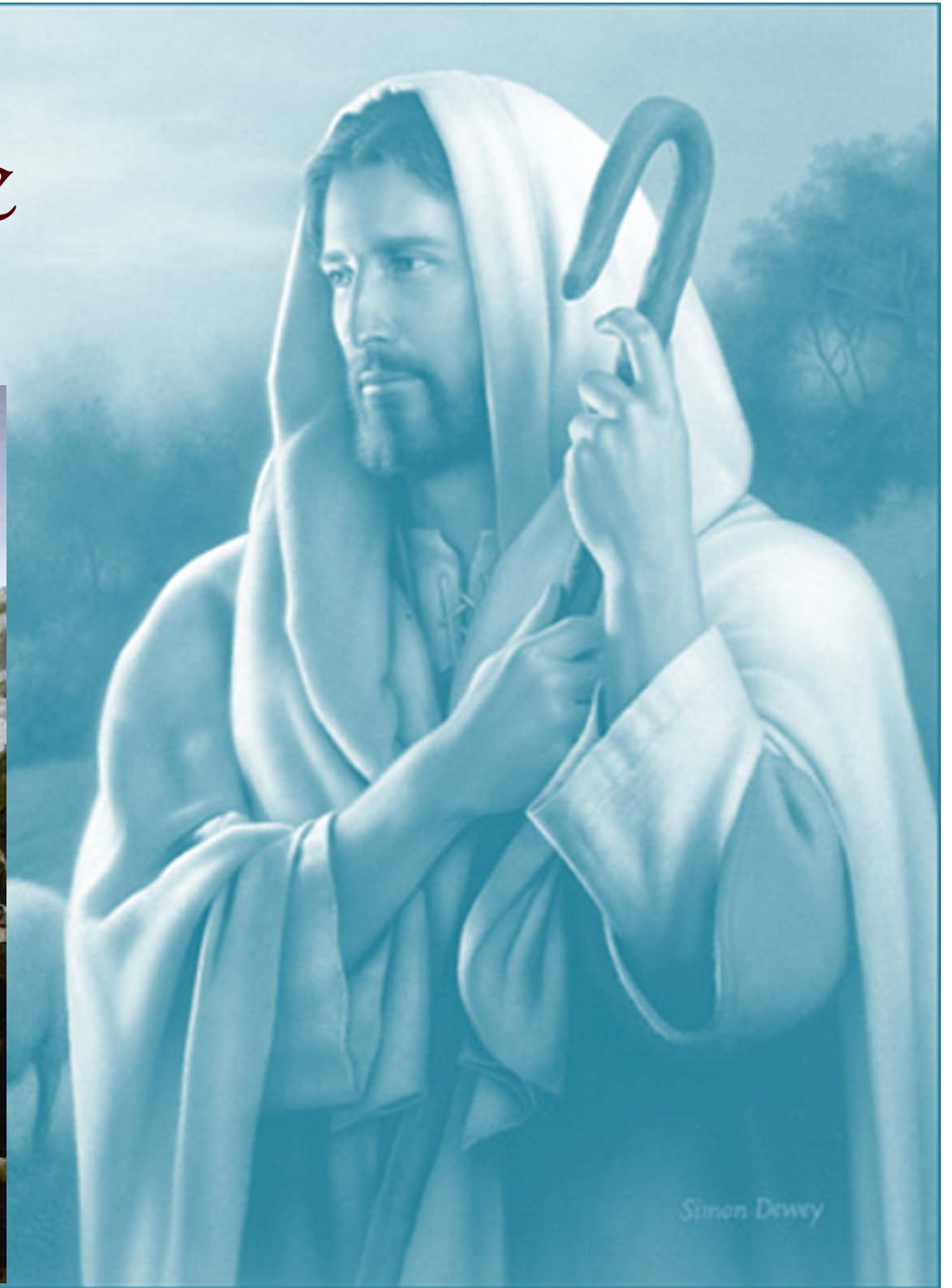
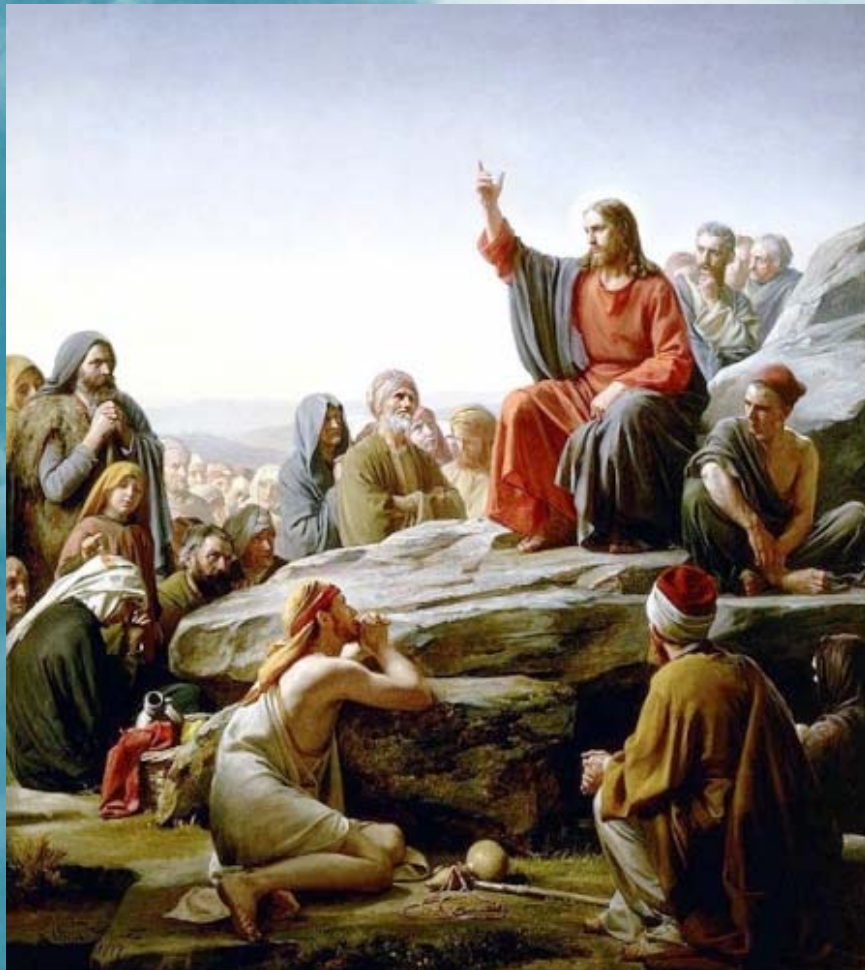


Strength in the Service



2 Timothy 2:3-7

† "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops. Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things."

Soldier

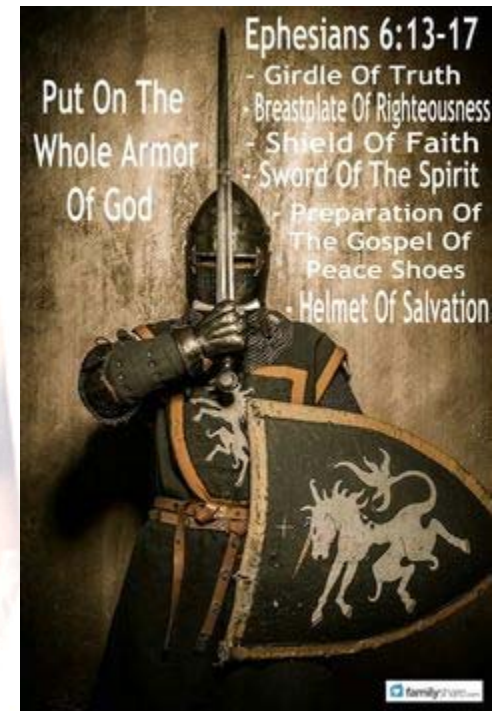
† Servant: Accepts suffering as a good soldier of the Lord

† Servants are soldiers:

⊕ “...to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:” (Philemon 1:2)

⊕ “Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier...” (Philippians 2:25)

⊕ [The Whole Armor of God] (Eph 6)



Simon Dewy

Soldier: Life of Seriousness

† Commitment

⊕ AWOL: Absent Without Official Leave

⊕ *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2Tim 4:7)*

⊕ A wounded soldier vs. a deserter



Soldier: Life of Seriousness

† Dedication

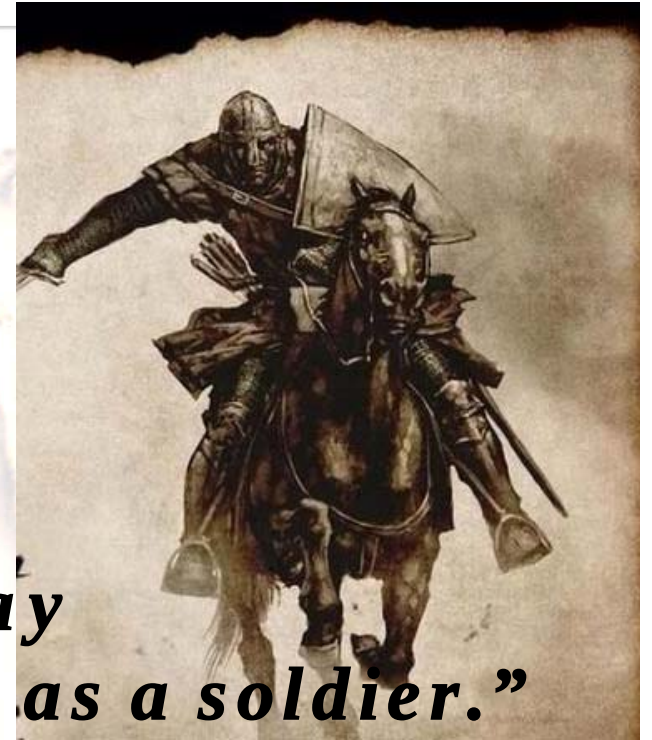
⊕ ***“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”***

⊕ We should not entangle ourselves with things of this world

- *“Do not love the world or the things in the world...” (1Jn 2:15)*

⊕ We should work hard to please Him who entrusted us

† We should not be distracted by anything else.



Simon Dewy

Athlete: Life of Endurance



† ***“He is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”***

† Athletes must go through hardships and be extremely serious and dedicated to the game.

✦ St. John Chrysostom: *“It is not enough that he enters into the lists, that he is anointed, and even engages, unless he comply with all the laws of the exercise, with respect to diet, to temperance and sobriety, and all the rules of the wrestling school, unless, in short, he go through all that is befitting for a wrestler, he is not crowned.”*

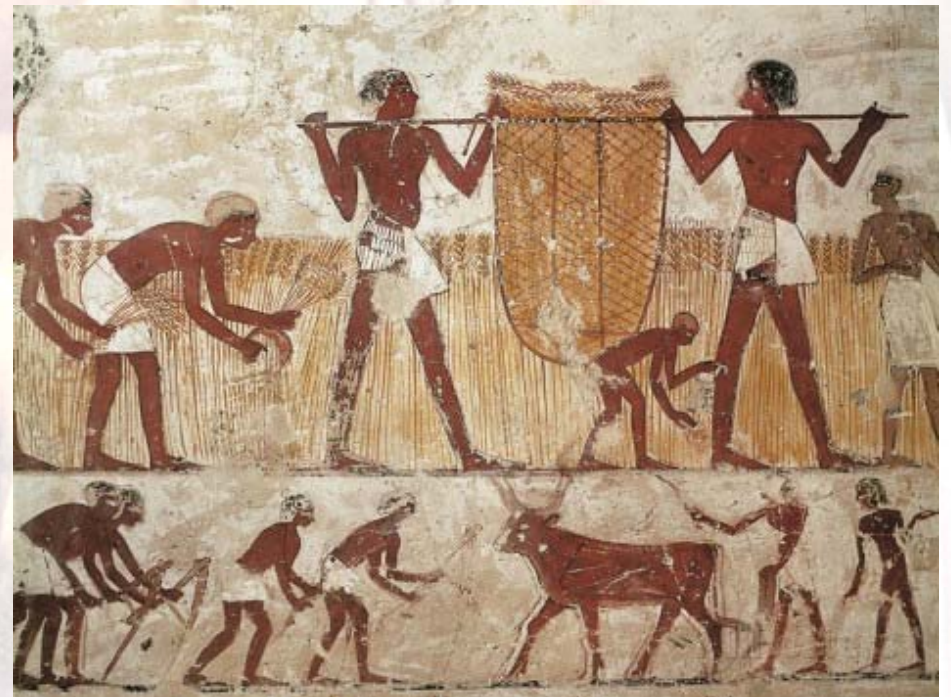
Simon Dewy

Farmer: Life of Labor

† ***“The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops.”***

† A hard-working farmer (not the lazy farmer) ought to have the first share of the fruits,

† In order for us to reap from our ministry, we must be hard-workers



Rewards of the Service

Soldier

- Please Him who has chosen him

Athlete

- Crowned

Farmer

- Reap the Fruit



"He is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."

RULES OF THE SERVICE FEATURES OF A SERIOUS SERVANT

Simon Dewey

1. Faithful

† A serious servant is a faithful servant

- ⊕ Doing our service correctly
- ⊕ Giving the glory to God, not ourselves
- ⊕ *"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?" (Matt 24:45)*
- ⊕ *"faithful and wise servant":*
 - *Must also have wisdom: otherwise we will lose souls*



Simon Dewey

1. Faithful

† “to give them food in due season?”

⊕ We are responsible for providing nourishment

⊕ We must make sure that what we are giving is proper and given at the proper time

- *Visitations, phone calls, etc.*
- *The effect on a student by simply calling to see how he is, is*
- *How did you feel when someone called you during the hurricane?*



Simon Dewey

1. Faithful

† *“to give them food in due season?”*

⊕ Proper food:

⊕ *“I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able” (1Cor 3:2)*

⊕ Spiritual food that is too heavy : they will not understand it

⊕ Spiritual food that is too light: they will not gain anything from it



Simon Dewey

1. Faithful

† Commitment and Dedication

⊕ *“The slothful man says there is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.” (Prov 26:13)*

⊕ *“Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord with slackness.” (Jer 48:10)*

⊕ We are on time to work and to school, and yet we don't do the same thing for church.

- *“Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.” (Prov 6:6-8)*
- *No excuses!*



2. Caring

† A servant should care about every person and every soul.

- ⌘ We should not give rest to our eyes until we have satisfied our spirits that our students are safe (physically, mentally, emotionally, etc.).
- ⌘ Do we have zeal about every person in our class?
- ⌘ Do we notice when someone doesn't come to class?
- ⌘ Do we bother to ask why they didn't come?



Simon Dewey

2. Caring



† David and the lion and bear

⌘ *“When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth” (1Sam 17:34-35)*

⌘ He cared about just 1 sheep and risked his life

⌘ We must seek after the LOST and bring them back to the church - it is our responsibility.

⌘ “We will be judged if we do not make EVERY EFFORT to bring back the lost!” (Bishop Youssef)

2. Caring

† “When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require from your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.” (Ezekiel 3:18)

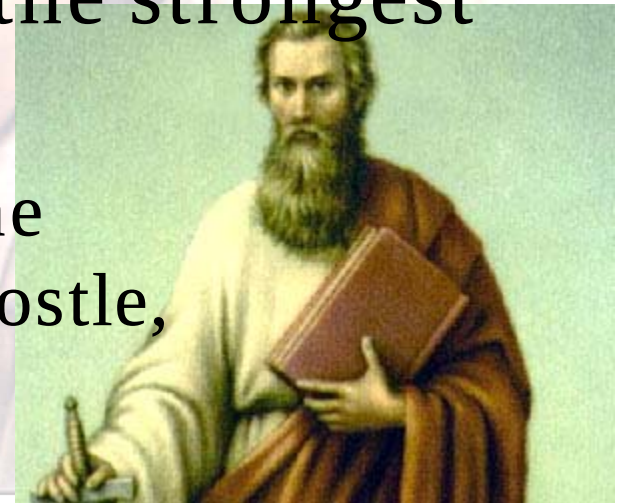
3. Responsible

- † A serious servant must watch every aspect of service.
- † It's not just about teaching a lesson in Sunday school
 - ⊕ It's about bringing souls back to the Lord
 - ⊕ Do we pray for our class?
 - ⊕ *"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you" (1 Samuel 12:23).*
 - ⊕ We should pray for our class not as a whole, but individually-each one by his or her name.



4. Able to Prioritize

- † A good servant knows what is important in his or her life.
- † We should know where service comes in.
 - ⊕ Is it first in our lives?
 - ⊕ After work, school, family, friends, etc.?
- † Love of the service should be the strongest factor governing our life.
 - ⊕ Love of the service converted the great persecutor into a great apostle, missionary, and servant.



Strength in the Service

† A servant is :

- ⌘ Soldier
- ⌘ Athlete
- ⌘ Farmer

† Rewards of Service:

- ⌘ Please Him who has chosen him
- ⌘ Crowned
- ⌘ Reap the Fruit

† Features of a Serious Servant:

- ⌘ Faithful
- ⌘ Caring
- ⌘ Responsible
- ⌘ Able to Prioritize

