**The Model Church – The Need for Leaders (part 5): Ministers & Servants**

It has been great to have Jason speak to us once again and report back on our brethren in Zimbabwe. From our recent word studies we can see that Jason exhibits attributes of a teacher, evangelist, and preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Another word fits Jason very well and that is **minister**. Today I would like to consider two Greek words that relate to a minister and ministering. We need leaders in ministering however there is room for us all to be ministers in some fashion working in the Lord’s Kingdom!

(**Noun, 5257, huperetes**)

**From Vines:** "any subordinate acting under another's direction;" "a minister,"; "ministers of Christ." **Occurs 20 times in 20 verses** in the Greek concordance of the KJV; **officer 11**, **minister 5**, **servant 4**

Example verses:

**Luke 1:2 (NKJV)** just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,

**John 18:36 (NKJV)** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

**Acts 26:15-16 (NKJV)** So I said, Who are you Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

**1 Corinthians 4:1 (NKJV)** Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

(**Noun, 1249, diakonos**)
**From Vines:** "a servant, attendant, minister, deacon," is translated "minister". **Occurs 31 times in 28 verses** in the Greek concordance of the KJV; **minister (20)**, **servant (8)**, **deacon (3)**

**(Noun, 1248, diakonia**): **from the root word diakonos (1249)**

**From Vines**: "the office and work of a diakonos" (see MINISTER, A, No. 1), "service, ministry," is used of domestic duties, of religious and spiritual "ministration,"; of apostolic "ministry,"; of the service of believers; "ministering"; "(for) ministering;" collectively of a local church, "relief"; of the "ministry" of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel; "to do service"; of the work of the Gospel, in general; of the general "ministry" of a servant of the Lord preaching and teaching. **Occurs 36 times in 32 verses** in the Greek concordance of the KJV; **ministry (16), ministration (6), ministering (3), misc (9).**

(**Verb, 1247, diakoneo**): **from the root word diakonos (1249)**

**From Vines:** "to be a servant, attendant, to serve, wait upon, minister"; of attending, in a more general way, to anything that may serve another's interests: of the conveyance of materials gifts of assisting the needy; of the ministry of believers one to another in various ways. **Occurs 38 times in 32 verses** in the Greek concordance of the KJV; **minister unto (15), serve (10), minister (7), misc (5).**

**\*1 Greek word gives 105 references to service & ministering in the NT!**

Example verses referring to servants, service, minister, ministers, ministering, ministry, etc.

**Matthew 25:44 (NKJV)** "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

**Matthew 27:55 (NKJV)** And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,

**Matthew 20:25-28 (NKJV)** But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

**Mark 9:35 (NKJV)** And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

**Luke 8:3 (NKJV)** and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

**John 12:26 (NKJV)** "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him [My] Father will honor.

**Acts 1:24-25 (NKJV)** And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell that he might go to his own place."

**Acts 11:29 (NKJV)** Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.

**Acts 12:25 (NKJV)** And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled [their] ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

**Acts 19:22 (NKJV)** So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered (ESV-helpers) to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

**Romans 12:7 (NKJV)** or ministry (ESV-service), [let us use it] in [our] ministering (ESV-service); he who teaches, in teaching;

**Romans 15:25 (NKJV)** But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister (ESV-bringing) to the saints.

**Romans 16:1 (NKJV)** I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,

**1 Corinthians 3:5-6 (NKJV)** Who then is Paul, and who [is] Apollos, but ministers (ESV-servants) through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

**1 Corinthians 16:15 (NKJV)** I urge you, brethren--you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and [that] they have devoted themselves to the ministry (ESV-service) of the saints--

**2 Corinthians 3:3 (NKJV)** clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered (ESV-delivered) by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, [that is], of the heart.

**2 Corinthians 5:18 (NKJV)** Now all things [are] of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

**2 Corinthians 8:4-5 (NKJV)** imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering (ESV-relief) to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

**2 Corinthians 9:12 (NKJV)** For the administration (ESV-ministry) of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

**2 Corinthians 11:8 (NKJV)** I robbed other churches, taking wages [from them] to minister (ESV-serve) to you.

**Ephesians 4:12 (NKJV)** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

**Ephesians 6:21 (NKJV)** But that you also may know my affairs [and] how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you;

**Colossians 1:7 (NKJV)** as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant (bondservant), who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

**Colossians 4:7 (NKJV)** Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant (bondservant) in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

**1 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV)** and sent Timothy, our brother and minister (coworker, servant) of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,

**1 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)** Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling [their] children and their own houses well.

**2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV)** But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

**Hebrews 6:10 (NKJV)** For God [is] not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, [in that] you have ministered to (ESV-in serving) the saints, and do minister.

**Revelation 2:19 (NKJV)** "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and [as] for your works, the last [are] more than the first.

**1 Peter 4:10-11 (NKJV)** As each one has received a gift, minister it to (ESV-use it to serve) one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, [let him speak] as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers (ESV-serves), [let him do it] as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Christians: Any Christian is to be a minister in whatever abilities the Lord has blessed them with. ***Are you getting the most out of your abilities? Is the Lord pleased in your service and ministering efforts?***

Non-believers: For those who are not Christians, I have a question for you; ***Who Are You Serving?*** There is no greater honor than to be a Christian who is ministering to others according to God’s commands. That type of service will lead you and those you influence to Heaven. ***Why not repent and be baptized today?***

If we can help you now, please come forward while we stand and sing!