

REPORTING FOR DUTY



“Lord, I’m here to report for duty.”

“Very good. But what’s all this stuff you brought with you?”

“Why Lord, these are my gifts, my skills, the very things you need to speed up work in your Vineyard.”

“Tell me what I need to speed up the work in my Vineyard.”

“For one thing, Lord, you need better leadership. And my specialty is developing leaders. I know how to take a group of people and teach them how to be leaders in the kingdom.”

“Maybe you should leave that skill behind for now.

I never instruct my disciples in leadership. I just send them out, cold turkey, and tell them to be servants.”

“Here’s something else I have to offer, Lord. I know how to develop preachers. I’ve done it quite successfully for years.”

“Notice how I did it with Peter, James and John and all the rest, I just sent them out and told them to proclaim the kingdom.”

“Maybe you could get away with that approach back in those days, Lord. But today people need training. And I know how to train them!”



“Let me ask you something. You say you have come to report for duty. Are you willing to let me call the shots??”

“Why of course, Lord!”

“Okay. Then we will leave all your skills and gifts behind and start from scratch.

What we need most in the Kingdom these days are servants, men and women who are content to be low-profile foot-washers.

We’re looking for people who are happy to wash feet and take out the garbage.”



“But Lord, you are wasting my gifts. I spent a lifetime developing these gifts, and now you want to put them on the shelf?”

“I am going to teach you how we do things in the kingdom.

In the kingdom we rely entirely on the power of the cross.

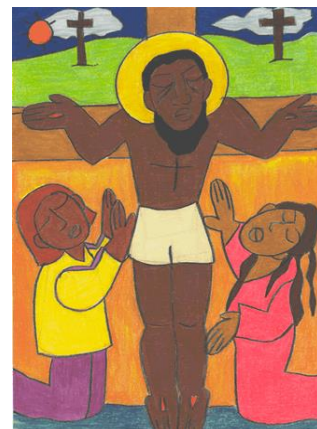
Listen to how my servant Paul puts it:”

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom.

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling; and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

I Corinthians 2



“Lord, I have to confess that I’m deeply disappointed in your approach.

I am offering to energize the work, to move it forward in this unstable world before your glorious return.

And you won’t even consider the help I offer.”

“What you seem to be offering is the work of a religious professional.

In the kingdom religious professionals are of little use until they learn the basics.

Here are the basics:"

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid.

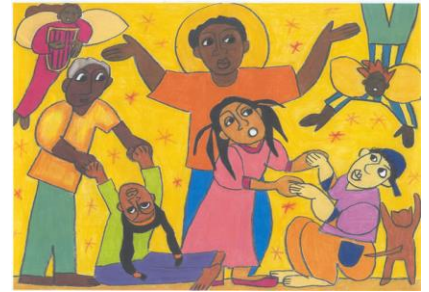
Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5

Message: Richard E. Bieber September 2021

Featured Art: First two pictures by Geralt on Pixabay. The rest of the beautiful art courtesy of Anne C. Brink at annecbrink.com



Prayer: Kind Lord, forgive us for trying to report to duty by calling the shots, for diving in and trying to do Kingdom work by worldly means...thinking it's our charisma, our skills, our talents that your Kingdom is in need of. When truly what we need is to cling to you, to know with fear and trembling it is you and only you who has the power to draw hearts and to change lives. We lay any gift, any talent before you and humbly become servants, and willingly live by the power of the Cross with every person we touch, willingly touching lives with your mercy. May it not be the our work, our gifts that shine in us, but the light that comes from you and the works that are borne of hearing your voice and doing the simple works you call us to... so you dear Father are glorified on earth and in heaven. Amen. Maranatha Mirror

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