

A Needed Paradigm Shift

Lord, Make Me a Servant

Matthew 20:20-28

As culture changes, so does terminology. One of the in vogue terms for “pattern” is “paradigm.” Fancy though it may sound, it simply means a pattern. Oddly, one notable has decried “Pattern Theology” as our undoing, yet speaks of the importance of paradigms! Life can be a hoot!

The fact is, Christianity does require a fundamental paradigm shift. A radical change of thinking away from the mentality of the world is a nonnegotiable of the faith (I Jn. 2:15-17; I Cor. 2:12-15). Priorities of the flesh are not really priorities (II Cor. 4:16-18). The view under the *sun* is much different from that under the *Son* (Lk. 9:23; Mk. 10:37; Lk. 17:7-10; Rom. 2:28-29). Yes, a paradigm shift is definitely necessary (Rom. 12:1-2; Jn. 12:26; Gal. 1:10; Matt. 12:30)!

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- Personally (Rom. 6:15-22)
 - Self—always the beginning point (Matt. 7:1-5)
 - Minding our business (Jn. 21:20-22)
- With My Brothers and Sisters (Eph. 4:16)
 - Connections (I Cor. 14:12-27)
 - Team
- Encouraging Others (Matt. 10:1-15)
- Opportunities to grow
- All people given a chance
- An encouraging environment to work through our mistakes
- Constructive accountability
- Open to different ways
- Be a servant myself

Service is one of the core concerns of Christianity. To be a servant requires a radical shift in thinking from worldly priorities to the lofty ideals of Jesus (cf. Col. 3:1-3). Much easier said than done, however. Nevertheless, the journey is well worth the taking. With Jesus, loss is gain (Matt. 10:39). The ball is in our court, time to serve!

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October 21, 2007