



“Deacon Jesus Is In The House”

I Timothy 3: 8-11

This is the day we observe the tireless, selfless work of those who have been called to be Deacons of Providence Missionary Baptist Church. Since childhood most of us have been familiar with the term “deacon,” but what is a deacon? What does a deacon do? How does one become a deacon? Is it merely a title given in the church to someone who exudes authority?

This morning’s word from the Lord seeks to answer this and other misunderstandings about the role of the deacon. It is our passionate desire that once you have received this message that your personal relationship with God and your personal will should be vastly improved.

Diakonos is used in Hellenistic Greek and occasionally in the LXX (Septuagint) (Esther 1:10; 2:2; 6:1,3,5; Prov. 10:4) for minister, servant, agent, or representative, and the New Testament with general meaning of servant or assistant (Mk. 9:35; 10:43; Matt. 20:26; John 12:26; Rom. 13:4; 15:8). A deacon in the Greek language refers to a servant. The Pauline Epistle stresses an official representative of Christ and God, as well as servant (I Cor. 3:5; II Cor. 3:6; 6:4; 11:15, 23; Eph. 3:7; 6:21; Colo. 1:7, 23, 25; 4:7; I Thess. 3:2; I Tim. 4:6). These verses clearly reveal a deacon as a “servant” fully surrendered to doing the will of God for the people of God. Acts 6:1-6 is often seen as the foundational text for the role of deacon, yet the word itself is never used. In this text, seven persons are appointed to minister/serve the material needs of widows.

In I Timothy 3:8-11, the qualifications for the office of deacon are outlined and are just as significant for today’s deacons. Deacons/servants should be servers; be worthy of respect; not liars; not heavy alcohol drinkers; not greedy for money or chasing dishonest gain; have a clear conscience and hold firmly to what God has shown them about faith; must be tested; no one should have anything against them. In verse 11, Paul suggests the same virtues for women of the church. It could mean deacons or female leaders of the church, like Phoebe in Romans 16:1 are servants, regardless of gender.

Jesus meets and far surpasses the expected role of a deacon. Even though He was the Son of God, the Bible says, “He came to serve, not to be served” which classifies Him as a deacon. We see in John 4:1-30 the perfect role that each of us modern day Christians, and especially deacons should follow. Jesus meets a Samaritan woman in the heat of the noon day sun and becomes her servant by ministering to her deepest personal and special needs.

Elected, called, deacons are here to meet our personal and spiritual needs to assist us to know and serve God better. This morning do not leave here without personally knowing or meeting the deacon who is assigned to serve you and your family. Providence is a servant church for the kingdom of God and I am so glad that Deacon Jesus is in the house this morning! Do not leave without knowing Deacon Jesus!!!

Pastor Gerald L. Durley