

The Qualifications for Greatness

7/6/14

1 Timothy 3:8 **Deacons** likewise *must be*

- men of dignity,
- not double-tongued,
- or addicted to much wine
- or fond of sordid gain,
- ⁹ *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
- ¹⁰ And let these also first be tested; then let them **serve as deacons** if they are beyond reproach.

- ¹¹ Women *must* likewise *be* dignified,
not malicious gossips,
but temperate,
faithful in all things.

¹² Let **deacons** be

- husbands of *only* one wife,
- *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households.

¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is from the NASV

Note: The words in bold in each verse below are from the root word, **diakonos**, which most Bibles transliterate, **deacon**, in Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Matthew 20:16 "Thus the last shall be first, and the first last."

¹⁷ And as Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve *disciples* aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them,

¹⁸ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death,

¹⁹ and will deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up."

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, bowing down, and making a request of Him.

²¹ And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left."

²² But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able."

²³ He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."

²⁴ And hearing *this*, the ten became indignant with the two brothers.

²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them.

²⁶ "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your **servant**,

²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be **served**, but to **serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Matthew 23:1 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples,

² saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses;

³ therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say *things*, and do not do *them*."

⁴ "And they tie up heavy loads, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves are unwilling to move them with *so much* as a finger.

⁵ "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries, and lengthen the tassels *of their garments*.

⁶ "And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

⁷ and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called by men, Rabbi.

⁸ "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers.

⁹ "And do not call *anyone* on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

¹⁰ "And do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, *that is*, Christ.

¹¹ "But the greatest among you shall be your **servant**.

¹² "And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

2 Corinthians 6:4 ...in everything commending ourselves as **servants** of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses,

⁵ in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger,

⁶ in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,

⁷ in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,

⁸ by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true;

⁹ as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death,

¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

2 Corinthians 11:23 Are they **servants** of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*.

²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

²⁶ *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

²⁷ *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

²⁸ Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure upon me *of* concern for all the churches.

²⁹ Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

Romans 16:1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a **servant** of the church which is at Cenchrea;

² that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.

³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

⁴ who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

⁵ also *greet* the church that is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.

⁶ Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily **servicing of food**.

² And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to **serve** tables.

³ "But select from among you, brethren, seven men

- of good reputation,
- full of the Spirit
- and of wisdom,

whom we may put in charge of this task.

⁴ "But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the **ministry** of the word."

⁵ And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

⁶ And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

⁷ And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.