

Mark 10:44

“and whoever wishes to be first among you **shall be slave of all.**”

Does this mean passive compliance with whatever others want?



Are “slaves of all” lambs or lions?



Mark 11

“**1 And as they approached Jerusalem,** at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, **2 and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. 3 And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’; and immediately he will send it back here.”** **4 And** they went away and found a colt tied at the door outside in the street; and they untied it. **5 And** some of the bystanders were saying to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” **6 And** they spoke to them just as Jesus had told them, and they gave them permission. **7 And** they brought the colt to Jesus and put their garments on it; and He sat upon it. **8 And** many spread their garments in the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. **9 And** those who went before, and those who followed after, were crying out, “Hosanna! *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;* **10 Blessed** is the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!” **11 And** He entered Jerusalem and came into the temple; and after looking all around, He departed for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late.”

1. Courage to manage fear.

John 12:27

“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, “Father, save Me from this hour”? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”

Effective slaves are free from toxic, paralyzing fear and have power to do hard things.

Managing fear

is the power to face the difficult challenges of life with faith that God is with me.

Note:

- ✓ **Courage = Faith + Action**
- ✓ **Virtue = Courage + Wisdom**
- ✓ **Love = Virtue + Community**

How do I know when I have Godly courage?

I step up in responding to life's responsibilities when it costs me something.

Fear is a faith problem!

Fear is the result of isolating self from God.

In the O.T. Israel was often pictured as a vineyard or a fig tree

Hosea 9:10; Jeremiah 24:5

Mark 13:2

"Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down."

Mark 13

"²⁸ . . . Now learn the parable from the fig tree; when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door."

Mark 11

"¹² And on the next day, when they had departed from Bethany, He became hungry. ¹³ And seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ And He answered and said to it,

"May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And His disciples were listening."

"²¹ And being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, behold, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." ²² And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God."

23 Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him.

²⁴ Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you.

Ministering in faith

is the power to do the work of God within a given sphere of life.

**Jesus
(Lord of all)**

**12 Apostles
(Foundation of the church)**

**All believers
(Christian Living)**

**Gifted Ministries
(Body Life Functions)**

**Kings, Elders, Masters, Parents
(Vocational & Occasional roles)**

2. Courage to minister in faith.

Matthew 28

"¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Effective slaves are free from insecurity in their sphere of ministry and have power to make a difference in life.

Ministering in faith

is the power to do the work of God within a given sphere of life.

Warning:

- ✓ Claiming authority outside our sphere is destructive.
- ✓ Don't take responsibility for things you can't control or are not your business.

Abusive authority is a sign of weakness!

It is concerned with getting and keeping power rather than ministering with it.

Mark 11

“¹⁵ And they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves; ¹⁶ and He would not permit anyone to carry goods through the temple. ¹⁷ And He began to teach and say to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a robbers’ den.””

How do I know when I have Godly authority?

I am under authority and exercise power with humility when it is my responsibility.

3. Courage to move with boldness.

1 Peter 4:11

“Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies;”

1 Peter 3:15

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;”

Effective slaves are free from cowardice in their identification with Christ and have the power to defend their hope.

Moving boldly

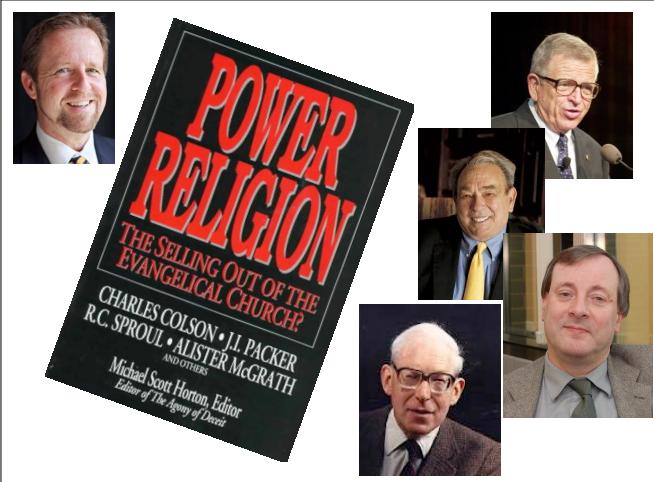
is the freedom to act dramatically & decisively as an ambassador for Christ.

Warning:

- ✓ Boldness without reverence is brashness.
- ✓ Don’t take responsibility for things you can’t control or are not your business.

Are you coveting My job again?





Cowards miss the joy of being used of God!

Boldness is the fruit of faith and courage.

How do I know when I have Godly boldness?

I know when to keep my mouth shut and when and how to speak the truth in love.

Proverbs 24:21

“Fear the Lord and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious.”

1 Peter 2:13

“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men.”

✓ **Respect (not rebellion) is to be our default posture before civil authority.**

Before you turn over tables - consider

- ✓ Jesus is addressing the “church” not the state.
- ✓ The Apostles did not see this as a pattern to be followed (1 Peter) with the state.

Two views of when civil disobedience is wise?

When government permits evil?	When government commands evil?
When it promulgates evil	When it compels evil actions
When it limits freedom	When it negates freedom
When it is politically oppressive	When it is religiously oppressive

Matthew 5

“³⁸ You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. . . ⁴³ You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”

✓ **We are to tolerate and even bless those in the world who offend us.**

Matthew 26

"51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword."

- ✓ If we resort to using the forces of this world, we can not complain when they are used against us.

Mark 11

"25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your transgressions. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."

4. Manifesting grace

**Effective servants
are free from demanding
personal rights as they show
grace to their debtors.**

Forgiveness

is the freedom to absorb the loss of personal justice out of concern for another's welfare.

Warning:

- ✓ Forgiveness does not require justice, reform, or reparation.
- ✓ We can't correct or discipline those we will not first forgive.

Bitterness is a form of victimization!

Forgiveness is a sign of power.

How do I know when I have Godly forgiveness?

I have a relaxed attitude that frees me to love those who have hurt me.

Example

of Jesus being IN but not OF the world.

Disciples are slaves who are free to be assertive in selfless ministry to others.

