

Rootedness in God's Commitment To Us

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

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What is a Ministry? A Ministry is a place for us to serve; it is not a place to shine or to put ourselves in the limelight. Consequently, leadership means bringing people where they will not need us anymore. As good leaders, we must recognize that as much as we are committed to God, we must also never forget our rootedness in the God who never fails. Our leadership must be defined in God's commitment to us.

1. **Where is our zeal coming from?** Examination of motive and the way we lead people helps us discover ourselves.
 - a. John the Baptist said, "He must increase, I must decrease..."
 - b. Jesus teaches us not to dream high, but to dream "deep."
2. **Where is our leadership rooted from?** Is it rooted from a foundation called rock or rooted in sand? If it is on a rock, we will never be ruined, although we may be shaken from time to time. But if it is on sand, when the earthquake comes, everything will be destroyed.
 - a. Is our work rooted in God? Do we give up easily when we meet trials? Being Catholic does not mean we are exempted from sickness and challenges of life. Even God suffered.
 - b. Strength comes from Jesus who loves us unconditionally. If our way of serving/living is rooted on sand (fame, self-interest, people), then we will be ruined when storms come.
 - c. The call for our commitment must be rooted on God's commitment to us. Is God present in our lives? Jesus' coming will be unexpected. In the parable of the foolish and wise virgins, the foolish ones did not bring extra oil. Thus, their lamp had lost oil, and they were excluded. Let us always prepare more, so we will not be caught unaware and lacking.
3. **The Leaders Commitment**
 - a. **A Leader is not just "full" but must be overflowing.** Being exact is not enough. There

must be so much more because he/she must fill up those who are lacking. God's love is overflowing. It is never inadequate "I will not stop loving you." Thus, our duty is to love others more. The first definition of love is patience. When we are supposed to get angry, we must choose to understand.

- b. **Live for the purpose.** When we do, then, we make God's plan for us fulfilled. Only then can we serve the Lord and the church with love and joy because we believe it is the reason we are here.
- c. **Realize that our service is not about the community** (this is secondary). Our service is about ourselves, to fulfill our purpose. Thus, we will not see it as a burden.
- d. **The source of joy when we serve is realizing that God's plan for us is fulfilled.** In the absence of gratitude, entitlement will set in. Do everything for ourselves to honor God's will and plan for us.
- e. **Let us go back to the unconditional love of God;** only then can we truly commit ourselves, the way God has been committing to us. Our commitment should not be rooted on ourselves self, but on God's faithful love for us.

Conclusion:

God is not calling us to be perfect, only to be faithful. Let us not expect the result that we want to have. Let us enjoy, understand the meaning of the process. The process itself is a result. Let us not be harsh on ourselves. Let us not think we can do everything. Let us appreciate and grow through our pains.

Let us not do things that are not for us. When what we are doing is the reason why we were born, according to God's will, then we will not be weary nor frustrated.

Reflection:

1. Examine where your actions/service are coming from? Why are you serving?
2. Were you shaken by many stories in your life. Are there valid reasons for you to say "I give up." Present the reasons to God. Can you convince God with your reasons?

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