

Relationship with God

PSALM 50:7-15

"Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. **8** Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me. **9** I will not accept a bull from your house, or goats from your folds. **10** For every wild animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. **11** I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine. **12** "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all that is in it is mine. **13** Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? **14** Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. **15** Call on me in the day of trouble; **I will deliver you**, and you shall glorify me."

ISAIAH 64:4

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, **who works for those who wait** for him.

LUKE 12:35-38

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; **36** be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. **37** Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and **he will come and serve them**. **38** If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves."

ACTS 17:22-25

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. **23** For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. **24** The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, **25** nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since **he himself gives to all mortals** life and breath and all things.



List characteristics of God in these passages ■

What is God's complaint? (Psalm 50)

What is God's plan for bringing glory to himself? (Psalm 50)

What does each passage have in common?
What surprising picture of God emerges?

Job description vs. Doctor's prescription

MINISTRY IS LIKE THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM :

IT IS NOT SOMETHING WE DO FOR GOD, BUT SOMETHING GOD DOES FOR US.

| | MINISTRY AS A JOB | MINISTRY AS A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION |
|------------------|--|---|
| GOAL | <p>Goal : receiving _____ in the form of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval or respect from others (or God) Paying down a debt of gratitude toward God Feeling of significance in having an impact on others or the group | <p>Goal : receiving _____ intrinsic rewards associated with trusting God and loving people. Healing could include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> healing from selfishness and self-focus healing from fear of risk and vulnerability |
| JOB QUALS | <p>Qualifications : _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible knowledge, expertise, experience. Typical leadership traits (extroversion, self-confidence, etc). | <p>Qualifications : _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAT : Faithful Available Teachable Evidence of God's healing already : a testimony of God's work. |
| JOB REQ'S | <p>Job Requirements : _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duties and commitments Focus is on tasks and hours | <p>Prescription for Health : _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ and _____ Focus on development and growth |
| ATTITUDES | <p>Attitudes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I just have to do it. If I don't, no one will. They (you, God) need(s) me. I am not really getting anything out of this. | <p>Attitudes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I learn more than my SG members from each discussion. How is God serving me in my role here? How am I being healed? I need to be in leadership (in ministry) much more than I am needed. |
| RESULTS | <p>Long-term Results :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ : I have done great things for God. The glory goes to the worker. RESENTMENT : I have sacrificed a lot!-for God, for this church, for this ministry involvement. _____ : I have done as much as I can do. | <p>Long-term Results :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ : God has done great things for me! The glory goes to the worker (i.e., God). _____ : I continue to receive much more than I give! ENDURING MOTIVATION : I can never get enough! |
| APPEALS | <p>Motivational Appeals : _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Missed you at small group. Where were you?" "I am really hoping everyone will be able to come to the church retreat. You all really should go!" <p>GUILT OUGHT DUTY</p> | <p>Motivational Appeals : _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I wanted to come by to see you because I didn't get to see you at small group. How are you doing?" "I would look forward to the chance to spend time with you at the church retreat." <p>APPEAL INVITATION GROWTH</p> |
| EXAMPLES | <p>Biblical Images :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke 7:35-50 : Simon (proud, judging) Luke 10:38-42 : Martha, resentful while trying to feed Jesus Luke 15:11-32 : The older son protesting the party "I have worked for you for years..." Luke 18: 9-14 : The Pharisee (proud) | <p>Biblical Images :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke 7:35-50 : the woman (forgiven, grateful) Luke 10:38-42 : Mary, eager to feed on Jesus' words Luke 15:11-32 : The younger son enjoying the party (no longer a slave but a son) Luke 18:9-14 : The tax collector (humble) |



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List characteristics of God in these passages ■

- ▶ creator
- ▶ owner of all
- ▶ not hungry, not needy
- ▶ deliverer
- ▶ works for those who wait
- ▶ serves
- ▶ gives everything to all

What is God's complaint? (Psalm 50)

- ▶ They bring sacrifices that they think meet needs in God.

What is God's plan for bringing glory to himself? (Psalm 50)

- ▶ offer to God your THANKS
- ▶ pay your vows - do what you say you'll do
- ▶ call out to God in a day of trouble
- ▶ He'll deliver you

What does each passage have in common?
What surprising picture of God emerges?

Each passage contains a "dramatic reversal."
You expect God to be exalted, but he in fact is the one who delivers, works, serves, gives. He is the master who serves.

Job description vs. Doctor's prescription

MINISTRY IS LIKE THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM ❑

IT IS NOT SOMETHING WE DO FOR GOD, BUT SOMETHING GOD DOES FOR US.

| | MINISTRY AS A JOB | MINISTRY AS A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION |
|-----------|--|--|
| GOAL | <p>Goal ❑ receiving WAGES in the form of ❑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Approval or respect from others (or God) ▶ Paying down a debt of gratitude toward God ▶ Feeling of significance in having an impact on others or the group | <p>Goal ❑ receiving HEALTH intrinsic rewards associated with trusting God and loving people. Healing could include ❑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ healing from selfishness and self-focus ▶ healing from fear of risk and vulnerability |
| JOB QUALS | <p>Qualifications ❑ well qualified applicants only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bible knowledge, expertise, experience. ▶ Typical leadership traits (extroversion, self-confidence, etc). | <p>Qualifications ❑ everyone can apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ FAT ❑ Faithful Available Teachable ▶ Evidence of God's healing already ❑ a testimony of God's work. |
| JOB REQ'S | <p>Job Requirements ❑ what leaders do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Duties and commitments ▶ Focus is on tasks and hours | <p>Prescription for Health ❑ what leaders need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ TRAINING and PARTNERSHIP ▶ Focus on development and growth |
| ATTITUDES | <p>Attitudes ❑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ I just have to do it. ▶ If I don't, no one will. ▶ They (you, God) need(s) me. ▶ I am not really getting anything out of this. | <p>Attitudes ❑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ I learn more than my SG members from each discussion. ▶ How is God serving me in my role here? How am I being healed? ▶ I need to be in leadership (in ministry) much more than I am needed. |
| RESULTS | <p>Long-term Results ❑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ PRIDE ❑ I have done great things for God. The glory goes to the worker. ▶ RESENTMENT ❑ I have sacrificed a lot!-for God, for this church, for this ministry involvement. ▶ BURNOUT ❑ I have done as much as I can do. | <p>Long-term Results ❑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ GRATITUDE ❑ God has done great things for me! The glory goes to the worker (i.e., God). ▶ HUMILITY ❑ I continue to receive much more than I give! ▶ ENDURING MOTIVATION ❑ I can never get enough! |
| APPEALS | <p>Motivational Appeals ❑ OBLIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ "Missed you at small group. Where were you?" ▶ "I am really hoping everyone will be able to come to the church retreat. You all really should go!" <p>GUILT OUGHT DUTY</p> | <p>Motivational Appeals ❑ OPPORTUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ "I wanted to come by to see you because I didn't get to see you at small group. How are you doing?" ▶ "I would look forward to the chance to spend time with you at the church retreat." <p>APPEAL INVITATION GROWTH</p> |
| EXAMPLES | <p>Biblical Images ❑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Luke 7:35-50 ❑ Simon (proud, judging) ▶ Luke 10:38-42 ❑ Martha, resentful while trying to feed Jesus ▶ Luke 15:11-32 ❑ The older son protesting the party "I have worked for you for years..." ▶ Luke 18: 9-14 ❑ The Pharisee (proud) | <p>Biblical Images ❑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Luke 7:35-50 ❑ the woman (forgiven, grateful) ▶ Luke 10:38-42 ❑ Mary, eager to feed on Jesus' words ▶ Luke 15:11-32 ❑ The younger son enjoying the party (no longer a slave but a son) ▶ Luke 18:9-14 ❑ The tax collector (humble) |

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