

## Diligence in Human Service

*Series on Following God's Schedule*

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### What We Will Learn

- Meaning of diligence in human service
- David worked diligently to deliver service for needs he encountered
- Christ's teaching on diligence
  - Feeding crowds of thousands – Provider Assistant example
- Provider-receiver network
  - Provider responsibilities
  - Receiver responsibilities
- Long-term benefits of human service

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### Meaning of Diligence

- Diligence in a call to compassion
- Understand the need and needy
- Determine how to provide for the need
- Commit to providing to alleviate the need
- Persevere through details
- To complete and deliver service objectives

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### David in Palliative Care of Saul

- Provide palliative care to Saul as needed
- David recognized onset of episodes
- Played the harp well to bring Saul relief

Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him. [1 Samuel 16:23]

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### David and Father's Errand

- David was to visit with brothers at the camp to find out about their conditions
- They had left the camp when he arrived
- He went to the battle lines to meet with them
- In persistence to complete his father's errand
- 1 Samuel 17:17–18 and 20–22

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### 1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp.

18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them.

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### 1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

20 Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry.

21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other.

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### 1 Samuel 17 (NIV)

22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were.

- Perseverance in completing father's errand
- Ushered David into encounter with Goliath

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### David as Officer and Commander

- Promoted in recognition of successful performance in missions
- His performance pleased troops and officers
- All Israel and Judah loved David because of his performance as battalion commander
- David's diligence as officer and commander brought success, admiration, and growing reputation as potential future leader of Israel
- 1 Samuel 18:5 and 12–16

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### 1 Samuel 18 (NIV)

5 Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well.

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### 1 Samuel 18 (NIV)

12 Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had departed from Saul.

13 So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns.

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### 1 Samuel 18 (NIV)

14 In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him.

15 When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him.

16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

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### Christ's Teaching on Diligence Provider Assistant Example

- Two occasions of feeding a large crowd illustrate Provider Assistant responsibilities
- Crowd of thousands needed to be fed
- Disciples recognized the need
- Committed to finding a solution
- Persevered and sought direction from God
- Feeding crowd of 5,000 men as example

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### Feeding Crowd of "Five Thousand" Provider Assistant Example

- Five thousand men ⇒ 5,000 families
- Jesus wanted to rest his disciples
- At a quiet place away from the crowd
- They just returned from a gospel mission
- Large crowd got there before him
- He had compassion and started teaching
- Mark 6:30–34

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### Mark 6 (NIV)

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

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### Mark 6 (NIV)

32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

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### Compassion and Diligence of the Disciples

- Recognized the need: a crowd to be fed
- Assessed what they could do
- Could not provide for the need themselves
- Consulted with their leader
- Sought direction from God
- God provided miraculous solution
- Mark 6:35–38

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### Mark 6 (NIV)

35 By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late.

36 Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."

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### Mark 6 (NIV)

37 But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

38 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."

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### Responsibilities of Provider Assistant

- Recognize need placed in your path
- Commit to providing for the need
- Work diligently despite any difficulties
- Consult with others
- Seek collaboration as necessary
- Seek direction from God

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### Provider-Receiver Network

- Provider of service needed by another
- Receiver of service provided by another
- Provider and receiver have responsibilities
  - Receiver appreciation preserves long-term benefits of human service
  - Provider diligence delivers human service
- Diligence in human service essential to following God's schedule

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### What We Learned

- Diligence in human service essential to following God's schedule
- David worked diligently to deliver service for needs he encountered
  - Palliative care for Saul
  - Father's errand
  - Responsibilities as officer and commander
- Christ used feeding of crowds of thousands to demonstrate diligence in human service

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