



“This people are saying, “The time isn’t right, we had better wait on the LORD for His perfect timing to rebuild the temple. But the Lord responds sarcastically by saying, “O, but it is time for you to live in custom homes while My house lies waste?” Haggai 1:2 – 4 author’s paraphrase.

Call it what you will – unwillingness, excuses, selfishness; it all comes down to this – we masquerade as spiritual people all the while satisfying our own wants and comforts – don’t we?

Be on your guard lest you fall into this trap. The deception of the flesh is ever so subtle. Whether it is excusing away our need to fast, or tithe, or witness, or be kind, we must always obey the Holy Spirit and the Word of God rather than be “led” by such selfish desires. “He must increase and I must decrease.” (John 3:30).

The true spirit of Christian service is simply this – laying down our lives (read – wants, desires, ambitions, needs, etc.) for others! “Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 14:13). To serve Christ is to serve others, to prefer others, and to bless others. “Let each of you look out not only for his own interest, but also for the interest of others.” (Philippians 2:4).

We may talk the talk, but it is in our service to other people that our true Christian character and spirit is seen. It is so easy to talk of our devotion to God but such devotion is proven in our daily lifestyle! (1 John 3:16 – 18; 4:7 – 11).

“Father, I want my yes to be yes. I want to live a life that is transparent. I want people to see that I belong to You – whether I am alone or I am in a crowd. Let me be, to all that I meet or know, a picture of a true Christian – in both word and deed. And may I also be found living out correct priorities, always seeking first the Kingdom of God and Your righteousness! In Jesus’ name I pray, amen!”

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