

John 12:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Analysis

Jesus defines discipleship: serving requires following, following requires sharing His location, and the Father honors servants. The progression moves from service to presence to reward. Following Jesus means accompanying Him through death and resurrection. Servants don't choose their path but follow their master. The promise that 'where I am, there shall also my servant be' guarantees eternal communion—disciples share Christ's destiny. The Father's honoring servants demonstrates that humble service receives divine recognition. True greatness is servanthood.

Historical Context

The servant-master relationship was well-understood in first-century culture. Servants literally followed masters throughout the day, available for any task. This imagery makes Jesus' call to radical availability clear.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does following Jesus 'where He is' require practically in your daily life?
2. How does divine honor differ from worldly recognition?
3. In what ways are you serving Christ by following Him wherever He leads?

Interlinear Text

ἐάν ἐμοὶ διακονῇ τις ἐμοὶ ἀκολουθείτω καὶ ὅπου
If me serve any man me let him follow also where
G1437 G1698 G1247 G5100 G1698 G190 G2532 G3699

εἰμὶ ἔγὼ ἐκεῖ καὶ ὁ διάκονος ὁ ἐμὸς ἔσται· καὶ
am I there also G3588 servant G3588 my be also
G1510 G1473 G1563 G2532 G1249 G1699 G2071 G2532

ἐάν τις ἐμοὶ διακονῇ τιμήσει αὐτὸν ὁ πατήρ
If any man me serve honour him G3588 my Father
G1437 G5100 G1698 G1247 G5091 G846 G3588 G3962

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:24 (Parallel theme): Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Galatians 1:10 (Parallel theme): For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

1 Samuel 2:30 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

Romans 1:1 (Parallel theme): Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

John 10:27 (Parallel theme): My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

John 17:24 (Parallel theme): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

2 Corinthians 5:8 (Parallel theme): We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

1 John 5:3 (Parallel theme): For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Jude 1:1 (Parallel theme): Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.