

# God's Word on Governing

A Study  
Through Discussion

**Part XI: Servanthood**

**By Curran Tiffany**



## XI. SERVANTHOOD

- Should I bite my tongue?
- May I talk back?
- Seeking to serve those in authority “as unto the Lord,” how may we distinguish useful servanthood (which rulers desire) from craven servility (which prudent rulers abhor)?
- What are the ways of servants in the Bible which had God's approval and blessing?

Various troubling choices arise, even dilemmas, in the course of servanthood.

**Consider** the following Biblical examples of persons under authority.

1. Use of Resources:

a) Matt. 25:14-16 (The story is told in verses 14-30)

What determined the allocation the master used in “entrusting his possessions” to selected servants?

When did the first servant begin trading?

What principle guided first servant in his decision on risk-taking?

What principle of stewardship does the master in effect articulate to the timid servant? (vv.26-27)

What two characteristics does the master ascribe to the third servant which are more shameful than timidity?

What is a common result of poor stewardship? (v. 28)

b) I Sam. 25:11, 18, 27, 32-33 (The story is told in verses 2-38)

What was the expressed intention of Nabal, Abigail's husband, concerning the giving of food to David and his men. (vv. 10-11)

How and why did Abigail depart from the expressed wishes of the head of the house? (v. 13,18,23,27,31)

What was the result? (vv.32-33)

How was this particularly beneficial to all the male members of the household? (vv. 21-22)

What is your opinion as to whether Nabal approved, or would have approved, Abigail's action?

2. Focus on Goals

What were the goals of Ashpenaz, the chief of the household officials, and of the king whom he served: (v. 10)

How did Daniel discover this? (vv. 8-9)

What was the alternative that Daniel proposed to his master: (11-13)

Who was to make the final decision?

How did the alternative minimize the risk worrying Ashpenaz?

3. Questioning Decisions. II Samuel 24:2-4; I Chron. 21:2-4

What aspiration of David does this servant, General Joab, recognize? (I Chron. 21:3)

What Practical argument is given against the need of a census?

What does Joab say the command which David has given would bring upon the nation?

Who besides Joab protested the order, though they were loyal servants? (2 Sam. 24:4)

What element of mystery broods over this narrative? (2 Sam. 24:1; 1 Chron. 21:1)

4. Questioning Motives: II Kings 5:13 (Story in verses 1-14)

What term of endearment did the servants use with this great military hero?

What word suggests they spoke to him privately?

What motivation were they in effect attributing to Naaman?

5. Conflicting Commands: Acts 5:28-29 (Story in verses 17-42)

Who ordered the apostles to preach? (v. 20; c.f. Matt. 28:19)

Who ordered them not to? (v. 28)

What principle did Peter and the apostles invoke in answering? (v. 29)

What penalty was suffered? (v. 40)

What penalty was contemplated? (v. 33)