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FUNCTIONS OF A TRUE CHRIST'S SERVANT

1st Lesson : Matthew 11:29

2nd Lesson : Matthew 20:28

Golden Text : Matthew 23:11

Brethren, this divine gospel will serve as the opening address for the 1989 Christ's servants Week. I want to remind you once again that Our Lord Jesus Christ is the founder of the Christ servants and the chief servant of humanity.

If you want to be a true Christ's Servant, you have to ensure that you serve others without asking for any compensation. If you do not practise what you are told, you have woefully failed.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IS OUR MODEL:

Our Lord Jesus Christ has set an example for us to follow. All those who want to serve Him should be quite prepared to serve the entire humanity; your desire to be a Christ servant is a welcome one, but you must be ready to serve others. Being a Christ's servant is no joke. There is one brother from Trinidad who has come all the way from his country to be groomed as a Christ's servant. But I want to remind all of you that it is not easy to serve God, let alone serve man. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the most diligent and sincere servant of mankind, and all Christ's servants should follow his foot prints. Whatever your disposition, whether you are poor, or rich, subject or ruler, patient or doctor you have to humble yourself. The name Christ's servant is neither an assumed nor pet, nor strange name.

Those who want to be Christ's servants must be prepared to serve others without minding any odds or without looking for compensations. If you seek for gratification when you pray or charge money for visions, sermons, removal of charms and so forth, then you are not a true Christ's servant. We are thankful to the Father that those concerned with the documentation of this gospel are all there so that it will become possible to disseminate the gospel to those who want to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ and humanity.

All the Christ's servants should be models to others. They should practically demonstrate the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ's servants should be prepared at all times to minister unto all men throughout their lives. But if you collect money from people for healing, or look for any kind of gratification or compensation from people, are you still the ideal Christ's servants? If you see vision, preach or remove charms for money are you still a Christ's servant? If you ask people to serve you, and you lord it over others, are you still a Christ's servant? All these examples given are the qualities of a true Christ's servant. If you deviate from these activities, you are not worthy to be called a Christ's servant. Whoever wants to be a true Christ's servant should refrain from fornication, theft, falsehood and other vices.

JESUS THE WAY:

It is a pity that most of you in this kingdom do not know that the highest position in this kingdom is that of serving Our Lord Jesus Christ diligently and faithfully. What is more? You must minister to the necessities of all humanity as a matter of course. By this comes the fulfillment of the words spoken by Our Lord Jesus Christ that he is the way, the life and the truth. You are all witnesses to the fact that

nobody has ever seen God, but through the activities of Our Lord Jesus the Christ, all the inhabitants of the world agreed that they had seen God face to face. This was made possible by Our Lord Jesus Christ who revealed God by practical demonstration to the inhabitants of the world. You have to demonstrate to the entire world that you are real Christ's servants by showing good examples in your pattern of life.

Our Lord Jesus Christ showed us good examples and laid the actual foundation for all His followers to emulate. There is nobody who professes to serve Him and deviates from his pattern-of life that shall have any defence to put up. You are also witnesses to the fact that until the advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ, there was no man who could truly serve God, much less serve man.

MINISTER UNTO OTHERS:

You are only pretending to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ. It was exactly what Moses did. He went about with bushy beards getting gratifications from people. When our Lord Jesus Christ came, He ministered to people instead of being ministered unto. That was the standards he set for everybody to follow. When one young man wanted to follow Him, He told him that foxes had holes and the birds of the air had nests, but the Son of man had no place to lay His head.

What is the practice today? Christ's servants have left houses, cars, landed property, boxes, shoes and other material property. Are those the real Christ's servants? He also commissioned His disciples to go and spread the good tidings of great joy, and commended that since they received all these spiritual gifts freely, they should give to people

freely. They were mandated to preach the gospel, raise the dead, make the blind to see, the lame to walk and the dumb to speak. They were charged not to receive anything for doing all these. Today, you who call yourself a Christ's servant, collect as much as one thousand, to four thousand for doing spiritual work for people. Moreso, you parade with a battalion of your children, wives, boxes and other house-hold effects. Can you call yourself a Christ's servant indeed?

Nobody reports you but you report yourself through your activities. You should realize that Our Lord Jesus Christ who is the mediator of the new covenant is the head, Leader and teacher of the Christ's servants. Those who profess to be Christ's servants but do not follow His foot — steps, shall have themselves to blame. Being a Christ's servant is one-directional. It is either you keep the injection of Our Lord Jesus Christ or you seek for your own glory. I do not intend to take you further. I only want to remind you that since Our Lord Jesus Christ had come to set the pattern of His teachings to follow, then we have to practicalize all His teachings as a matter of course. May our first lesson be read;

1st Lesson: Matthew 11: 29

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

IMITATE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST:

Brethren, is that portion a parable or vision. It is wholly the word of God. Our Lord Jesus Christ set a practical example for us. He was humble and meek. He did not want people to serve Him but instead ministered to others. He was never angry. We are therefore once again enjoined to imitate Him. Because He spent his life ministering to others, that was why he demonstrated practically what he expects of us by washing the feet of his disciples. You will agree with me that the feet are the dirtiest part of the body. This symbolic and practical demonstration proved His meekness, humility and unalloyed love for mankind.

Our Lord Jesus Christ had exceeded all men in His service to humanity. This unusual meekness caused Peter, one of His disciples to refuse any attempt by Christ to wash his feet. When Our Lord Jesus Christ told him that if his feet were not washed, he would have no share in the kingdom of God, Peter asked that Our Lord should wash not only his feet, but also his head and the rest of the body. But Our Lord Jesus Christ told him that it was only the feet that was dirty and had to be washed.

After washing all of them, He told them that not all of them were entirely clean. That was why He said that all of them should take His yoke upon them, and learn of Him for He was meek and lowly in heart, and they would find rest for their souls. He also dressed up and spoke to them saying, If you call me Lord and Master, you all should imitate me and wash the feet of other people. This washing of the feet symbolises a practical approach to solving one another's problem. We should face the burden, lack, adversity and problems of others like our own. That is what all the Christ's servants should do.

All true Christ's servants should serve others instead of being served as demanded by the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is our duty to imitate Him. If we imitate the world, we shall fail. The disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ imitated their Lord and master. That was why they pooled their resources for the common good. This is what all the Christ's servants should imitate if they really want to toe the foot print of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

REVEAL GOD THROUGH YOUR DEEDS:

The orthodox churches have woefully failed because they have deviated from the practical application of the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ. You are being charged today that whatever you want others to do for you, you should first do same to them. It is a truism that all the things we ought to do for our salvation, had been revealed to us practically by Our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are talking about love, you have to practically demonstrate this love. You have to show humility, mercy, patience and goodness. It was Our Lord Jesus who first started to serve God and man practically. He served others, He never imputed sins to people, was the first to love, to greet you, to feed, to heal, and he was able to exhibit the virtues of God in Him to others around Him. As all the virtues of God became manifest in Him, the God-nature became known through Him.

What can you as a Christ's servant boast of? You relax in your cushion chair and ask Okon, Mary and Henry to fetch water for you, or wash your hand and feet. How do you demonstrate practically that you are a Christ's servant? you are lording it over others and are acting as the commander

and monarch of all the survey. Tell me the basis of your claim to being a Christ servant. When you are humble and make sacrifices in serving others, not minding the cost and the humiliation, without asking for compensation, you are a true and worthy Christ's servants. You will become a model.

CHRIST'S SERVANTS REQUIRE NO MATERIAL REWARDS:

There is a marked difference between civil servants and those who are serving Our Lord Jesus Christ. There is also a marked difference between those who serve in the secular churches and those who serve God in spirit and in truth. When a true Christ's servant pray for a person and he recovers, and out of happiness gives the Christ's servant say ten naira, he will tell the person to rather show gratitude to the Father and not to himself. he will refuse to take the ten naira.

A true Christ's servant who assists a person to carry a part or all of his heavy load will not accept any thanks for so-doing but will rather ask that the Father be thanked. The Christ's servant is different from all other worldly church dignitaries as the Pope, the Bishops the Pastors and others who profess to serve God but are serving themselves.

THE DEFINITION OF A CHRIST'S SERVANT:

In a nut-shell, a Christ's servant is anyone who is committed to the services of God at all times, no matter the odds. He has to minister unto God and all humanity. He makes personal sacrifices at all times, without looking for any compensation. Every person is expected to be a Christ's servant, since God owns heaven and earth. The governors,

the president, commissioners, ministers, top government functionaries are supposed to be Christ's servants. It is because people of all walks of life have deviated from the path of rectitude that is why it looks as if public and civil servants are not supposed to serve God and humanity. When we are asked to do something for others, some would argue that they are not Jesus Christ. It looks as if it is only Jesus the Christ who is supposed to be the Son of God or to serve Him. It is expected of us all to serve God and our fellow men at all times. Those who serve God correctly and diligently are the true Christ's servants. God created man and angels to serve Him. Man in particular had become recalcitrant and that has been the cause of his numerous problems in the world.

It has now pleased God to institute the office of Christ's servant in this era of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, all should serve God without complaints or hindrances. But because of man's insubordination, the Christ's servants have once again degenerated to the lowest ebb. If there is no change of attitude for the better, I will make changes again. The Christ's servants Fellowship had been elevated to a very high level such that at a time, it became the envy of many.

I am saying emphatically again that whoever is serving God whole — heartedly is a Christ's servant. Those who do not serve God are not. That is why whoever applies to be a Christ's servant must think over after reading through all the conditionalities given to those who are Christ's servants. Some of you will want to pocket or swallow others. Whoever wants to manipulate others for his own personal benefits, is no Christ's servant. What else should bring the in-fighting and confusion among you? Whoever causes division, fighting, quarreling and bickering is not a true Christ's servant. He is just a ravenous wolf in a sheep's skin.

HUMILITY IS THE BEDROCK OF SERVICE TO GOD:

A true Christ's servant should allow himself to be used just like a towel for the hand or the foot — carpet. Whoever does not allow this situation to prevail is not a true Christ's servant. That is why I tell the worldly people who say they are Christ's servants to warm their seats. In point of fact, a Christ's servant should be like the sewage which takes in faeces from every kind of person: That is why it is difficult to be identified as a true Christ's servant. If it is discovered that you are not like the sewage, or hand towel, or foot mat you will not be regarded as a true Christ's servants.

This explains why Our Lord Jesus Christ said that those who came before him are thieves and robbers. Those before him received goats, cows, fowls, food stuffs as their compensation. They have turned round to commercialize the work of God for their carnal benefits. They always demand and receive rewards for utilizing the free gift of God to them. They purport to serve God when they are fighting for their own bellies. The functions of Christ's servants have been demanded and cheapened. . . . It is only Our Lord Jesus Christ who serves God and humanity the way it should be done. He became so humble, meek and gentle serving God and humanity instead of being ministered unto. It was through his services that the characteristics of God could truly/be comprehended. This behavioural pattern is what all those who want to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ should emulate.

It is said that the fields are all white but the reapers are few. When the disciples asked Our Lord Jesus Christ to eat, He told them. "My meat is to do the will of him that sent

me, and to finish his work.” The disciples thought ignorantly that He had eaten some where else, but he did not. he also told them “Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest” This gospel is a face-to-face talk with the Christ’s servants. The workers are either few or unwilling to work hard. Those who deviate from the pattern set by Our Lord Jesus Christ cannot be true Christ’s servant. Let our second lesson be read.

2nd Lesson: Matthew 20:28

“Even as the so of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransome fo’ many.”

SELFLESSNESS IS THE KEY:

Brethren have you heard what the Bible says? Our Lord Jesus Christ said that He came to serve man and not to be served. If you argue that man is not god, how could the Son of God serve man? In the same manner, whoever does not serve man cannot truly serve God. As a true Christ’s servants, you have to serve men as though you were serving God. You should not seek for services of others.

I did not make you Christ’s servants because of your educational qualification or righteousness. You did not apply either. It was because of what I saw in you. I called you as those who were willing to work for God. But quite unexpectedly, you changed as a chameleon. Even the

Leader's secretary, Pastor Offu Ebongo was impressed by your activities. Today, you no longer clean the premises nor render vital services to others as before. You rather seek to be served. You now do very odd and strange things not expected of Christ's servants. Some of you are rebellious and wasteful to well-meaning efforts. That is why you are reminded to retrace your steps. In the past, you used to go to Biakpan to work, prayed for people and served them. After a while you unveiled, the mask with which you were covered. The ame Christ's servants is answered only by those who are prepared to serve God and humanity without counting the cost or wishing others to serve them.

When you find those who minister to the necessities of others without seeking for any compensations, such people are the true Christ's servants. When you find anyone who inscribes on all parts of his body that he is a Christ's servant, yet receives money or other gratification for the spiritual work done, such a person is fake. he is false Christ's servant. How will the glory of God be revealed if you do something for someone, and ask for reward?

You are a true Christ's Servant only when you minister unto others without seeking to be ministered unto. Any shepherd who wants to be paid for services rendered is not a good shepherd. In that case, the sheep will ot hear his voice. It is on the basis of this that many prominent brethren in this kingdom seek to be called or identified as the Christ's servants. Those called Christ's servants or senior Christ's servants are those who have really used their material resources to serve god. They are so happy to be called Christ's servants. In this respect, will it not be right to call

Chief nwagbara of Ndokki a Christ's servant? Will you say pastor M. Akwang, the Etops, pastor Essah, Apostle Enyi I of Aba, Apostle Obrutse, Pastor C. O. Akpan, Deaconess J. M. Konu, Deaconess Clarke and therest of them are not Christ's servants. Will you also argue that Pastor Okpala Williams who single - handedly sponsored the Christ's servant trips to overseas' countries is not a Christ's servant? All those who use their material acquisitions to serve God and humanity are all Christ's servants. All those who use their talents for the benefit of humanity are all Christs servant.

CHRIST'S SERVATS FELLOWSHIP

TOPS THEM ALL:

If we had not served ourselves, we would not be judged, and if we are judged, He would vindicate us so that we might not be condemned with the world. In the whole Brotherhood, there is no Fellowship so well recognised as the Christ's servants Fellowship. You are all witnesses that the money you used to realize here has often surpassed that of any other Fellowship. This had been so because the brethren have recognised the importance of this great Fellowship as a Fellowship meant to render services to God and humanity at large. But recently, many people have come to realize that the Fellowship now seek to serve self. That is why many people have withdrawn their moral and financial support. If you went to a person's house, and he admits you into his bed-room, but later visits refuses you entry into the same room, you should search yourself thoroughly, that perchance something was lost during your last visit.

That is why people make investigations about the type of white garment you wear. They want to find out why a certain

garment is put on and for what reason. This desire results from the fact that man had already fed from the forbidden tree of good and evil. Wisdom makes a person puff-up, but love makes one to be humble. When the Christ's servants started, they started well with love and service to God and humanity, but later on they deviated into another direction piloted by carnal desires.

There was a time the Christ's students also deviated from the path of rectitude, but right now they have retraced their steps to rectitude and sanity. We are sure the same thing is going to apply to the Christ's servants. They will have a change of heart and will be brought back to their position of glory. All the ordained ones, Elders Choristers, and all others are Christ's servants, but when you turn to seek for service instead of you to serve, you have derailed. Again, once you receive any gratification for what you have done for others, you have denied your Christ's servanthship. All the brethren in the Brotherhood world are Christ's servants, but once we fail to abide by the injunction of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we lose the blessings freely bestowed on us. We shall be the true Christ's servants if we devote most our energy and resources to serve God and humanity.

ROUND THE CLOCK SERVICE:

The institution of Christ's servants had long existed but was fully revealed by Our Lord Jesus the Christ. You will recall how God sent Elisha to tell Naaman the leper to wash so that he might be cleansed. He did, and he was cleansed. He took much gifts in cash and kind to Elisha but Elisha refused saying that the cleaning was done by God. Christ's servants are therefore those who minister to the necessities of others without seeking for any reward.

Once Our Lord Jesus the Christ healed on a Sabbath day and the Jews said that whoever healed on that day was not from God. Our Lord Jesus Christ told them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. He works for twenty four hours and forever second. If He had rested for one split second, the whole world would perish. In the same token, as the Father works round the clock, well His children must also work. It is surprising to hear that in the orthodox churches, Pastors and Bishops are given retirements and paid retirement benefits. Where are they retiring to

Does it mean that the work of God has finished? There is no retirement, no leave, because the work is done until eternity. Why do you have to proceed on leave? is there any leave in the Father's vineyard, that is unthinkable. We can now see that Our Lord Jesus Christ has shown us the pattern and the way to serve, and whoever does not want to follow His foot-step should blame himself.

GOD PILOTS THE AFFAIRS OF MEN:

In secular governments, there are civil servants, and also presidents, governors, commissioners, the ministers and so forth. Their's is quite distinct, but serving God and humanity. This means that it is God who keeps and provides for our needs. He directs the affairs of all His children, all over the world. He plans everything as it affects the entire world, orders the time and season for the benefits of His children. It is said that whoever goes to war and entangles himself with the things of the world, shall not be enlisted. We should stand up firmly and serve our God diligently. Our goal is to serve humanity to the best of our ability, even as Our Lord Jesus the Christ had set the pattern for us to emulate.

MAN IS GOD'S VINEYARD:

The vineyard is human being, and the work of God is ministering unto men. As long as you are ministering unto man, you are therefore ministering unto God. We have to help our fellow men in time of need, or adversity and at all times. We should rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. In time of plenty or famine, we should also share equally with our brethren. We should not impute sins to others. There is no other reason why people are anxiously waiting for Our Lord Jesus Christ to crashland from the sky except to have him back to render his usual good services to people. He was good to every person. He was not a burden to any man and in no way constituted a problem to anybody. Where there was no peace, love and joy, he was able to sufficiently bring all these to humanity. I wish that our golden text be read once more.

Golden Text: Matthew 23:11

“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”

CHRIST'S SERVANT'S SO NOR SEEK FOR PREFERENCES:

Why should people struggle for positions whereas the highest position is that of serving others. If therefore the greatest must be a servant, is it the least who shall sit in the throne? It stands to reason that whoever wants to be the greatest must be your servant. Whoever wants to be the leader must first be led. Also, if the greatest among you is your servant, then there is equality and oneness in this kingdom. All true Christ's servants are the greatest in this kingdom.

If you remain on your seat and refuse to go on blessing others, are you still a Christ's servant? If the Father uses you to conduct, and when others are filing in for blessing you refuse to follow suit, are you still a Christ's servant? When you are given preferential treatment during love-feast will you say that you are a Christ's servants? it is the owner of the vineyard who can rightly direct us on what to do. There is nothing we can do well by ourselves. We should allow God to pilot affairs for us.

Right now some of you have gone to the market to buy cowries, pins and nails and you purport to remove these things from people's bodies. All these things bring disgrace to you. It is meanness to perform all these sort of strange things. Even after 'removing' all these things, the victim's problems increase. I will soon call on all those who profess to remove charms to come and do it before me. It is unthinkable to indulge in these acts.

ALL EVILS SHALL BE EXPOSED:

After all these curious things are removed, namely toads, two of three inch nails, cowries, pins, toads and what have you, the sick from which all these things were performed will still be sick. It is the greatest insult to other people's intelligence. Those who indulge in these things should remember that they cannot fool everybody all time. Whatever is evil and deceitful shall be exposed one day. It sounds stupid to even conceive that a toad could be removed from a person's body. Which part of a person's body could the toad live? The same deceitful act was performed in Pastor Ejedawe's place, in the Republic of Camerouns and other places too numerous to mention. It is very pathetic that

Christ's servant can ever indulge in such acts and yet claim to do the work of God? God does not lack people who can serve Him. Our Lord Jesus-Christ wants us to serve Him and the entire humanity too. The charms removed in the Cameroons are said to have been taken to the police station. These are not the calling of the Christ's servants. What are you removing? You have to preach the gospel. Anything other than that is unapproved by me.

The vision you give for the purpose of getting money cannot be true visions. This is so because you will try to manipulate issues to suit your purpose or fabricate stories for the purpose of getting much money from people. This incidence has confirmed the Biblical citation saying that you are clean, but not all. We should do things in line with the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ and not for our self — interest. We should strictly follow the pattern of life and the foot — steps of Our Lord Jesus the Christ. It is unthinkable for people who call themselves Christ's servants to indulge in such unwholesome acts just for monetary gains.

THOSE WHO SERVE SHALL BE REWARDED:

After Our Lord Jesus Christ had made a solemn promise to Peter when He asked for rewards of those who have forsaken all the mundane things to serve Him. Our Lord Jesus Christ promised that those who diligently serve Him, shall be rewarded and shall be endowed with riches, glory and eternal life. As we continue in the week we shall continue to unfold many other promises of God to man which are physically and spiritually beneficial to you. His promises never fail. He will not fail us. However what we have revealed to you is what constitutes the conditionalities of the

Christ's servants in a nutshell. The pastors in the orthodox churches beg their adherents for money and foods. They are not serving God. That is why some of their members close doors against them whenever they go there to beg. Whoever works for money is not a true Christ's servant, but is seeking for his own glory. At Mother Keke Bethel in Oturpor area of Benue State, a worker of God went to preach and to do spiritual work, the owner of the house gave some money to him and the money was rejected on the grounds that the work of God is never sold for money. The good impressio was created which made the people there to glorify God. The meant that Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is not out to exploit people but to minister unto them freely. That is why we should realize that Brotherhood is neither a church, nor a service centre, nor healing home nor a prayer house where people are charged for any services rendered to them. You all are my witnesses that nobody is charged for any spiritual work including prayers or healing, done in this kingdom. Whoever charges even one kobo for any spiritual work done for others is greatly in opposition to the will and purpose of the Holy Spirit. All spiritual gifts were freely given to us. We have to freely give to others so that the great bond of love might be solidified.

Brethren, I do not intend to take you any further. Those who have ears, let them near. May God bless His Holy words. Amen!

**A REVELATION OF FIRST HOUR AND FIRST DAY
1989 1/1/89 FROM PASTOR VINCENT E. PREFA
(CSP) NIGERIA POLICE BENIN CITY**

Let thanks and Praises be given to God in the Name and Blood of Jesus Christ Amen!

On 15/1/89 between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m., I was on my way from Benin to Eku to conduct Sunday Service in the newly opened Bethel. Soon after passing the out-skirt of Benin, I heard the voice of some one singing in my car, as it was in motion.

I looked round at the four occupants in the car and observed that they were not singing. The song was as follows: Jesus new name is Olumba three times, Go-ye and tell the world. I enquired from the rest occupants whether they also heard the song that was being sang, they said no. i thereby echoed it to their hearing and they also joined me in singing the song. After a short while, the song stopped, followed by a loud voice saying, Hear ye the vice of your Creator. "There is no one on earth who is conscious of his incarnated past except the Sole Spiritual Head Leader Olumba Olumba Obu. At first he came as Jesus the Christ for the salvation of mankind. Now he is back as the Sole Spiritual Head with a new name. The fulness of time is at hand. The old name will cease to function all over the world. While the New name will reign for ever Amen! It is the will of God and not of man.

Let those who nave ear, hear what the spirit says.

Thank You Father.

*Pastor Vincent E. Prefa (CSP)
International Chairman,
Vegeterian Fellowship, B.C.S.*