***March 24, 2019***

***Today’s Lesson: Encourage One Another***

“What can I do for you?” How often do we hear those words as we enter a place of business or walk up to a restaurant counter? You know what means more to me than the words? It’s the facial expression and tone of voice that says, “I mean it!” We’ve all had plenty of experiences of hearing that question from employees who spit it out as a required mantra and you can tell that they don't give a rip about being helpful! It’s usually a “fast food” restaurant with high employee turnover, low pay and benefits, and thus low motivation to truly represent their business in a positive light. I’ve worked hard at not letting that bring a reaction out of me. Now, I try to make it my mission to personally brighten up their attitude by being nice and friendly. Sometimes it works and sometimes it changes nothing, but I enjoy being the embodiment of the very question they are asking of me.

“What can I do for you?” Now there’s a wild question for children of God to be asking of one another! Yes, I’m being sarcastic. It’s the very question Jesus asked people all the time. Why? First, because EVERYONE KNEW HE WAS A GIVER, and second, because they were people with serious needs and they knew he’d do something about it. It was the way He thought! It’s the way He wants His followers to think too!

How often do you ask others some form of that question? How can I help you? What can I do for you? What would you like? You probably ask it more often than you realize, especially if you are a giver, a servant-oriented person, and a helper.

Why can’t we say it, or at least think it, at the assembly? What would you like to sing? What would lift you up? What style of preaching touches you? What are some things that we could do that would help you draw closer to God and to His people? Somehow, many people don’t see the assembly as a “What can I do for you” place. Who came up with that kind of thinking?

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