

Go and Do Likewise

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Gå hen og gør ligeså

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I would like to highlight those missionaries who are called to service assignments. They are examples to us.

While the Savior was traveling through Bethsaida, some individuals brought a blind man to Him. Perhaps they were hoping to see a miracle firsthand. The Savior “took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town” to heal him privately. Initially, the healing seemed less than effective. The man “looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.” Jesus, compassionately, “put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up.” With that additional touch of the Savior’s hands, the blind man now “saw ... clearly.”

This is just one example of how the Savior’s life is characterized by humble acts of service. He reminds us that He “came not to be ministered unto, but to minister” and then invites us to follow His example by going the extra mile, giving to those who ask of us, and loving our neighbor. When asked, “Who is my neighbour?” Christ shared the parable of the good Samaritan, with a charge to “go, and do thou likewise.”

Missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are modern-day examples of the good Samaritan that Christ invites us to become. I would like to highlight those missionaries who are called to service assignments. They are examples to us of how service (1) opens hearts to the gospel of Jesus Christ, (2) allows all of us to minister regardless of our circumstances, and (3) brings the power of Christ into our lives.

Jeg vil gerne fremhæve de missionærer, der er kaldet som tjenestemissionærer. De er eksempler for os.

Mens Frelseren rejste gennem Betsajda, bragte nogle mennesker en blind mand hen til ham. Måske håbede de at se et mirakel med egne øjne. Frelseren »tog den blinde ved hånden og førte ham uden for landsbyen« for at helbrede ham i enrum. I første omgang virkede helbredelsen ikke særlig effektiv. Manden »åbnede øjnene og sagde: »Jeg kan se mennesker, for jeg ser nogle, som ligner træer, men de går omkring.« Jesus lagde medfølelse »igen hænderne på hans øjne, og nu så han klart«. Med den ekstra berøring af Frelserens hænder kunne den blinde mand nu »skelne alting tydeligt«.

Dette er blot ét eksempel på, hvordan Frelserens liv er præget af ydmyge handlinger for at tjene andre. Han minder os om, at han »ikke er kommet for at lade sig tjene, men for selv at tjene«, og opfordrer os derefter til at følge hans eksempel ved at gå den ekstra mil, give til dem, der beder os om det, og elske vores næste. Da Jesus blev spurgt: »Hvem er så min næste?« fortalte Kristus lignelsen om den barmhjertige samaritaner med en opfordring om at »gå ... hen og gør[e] ligeså«.

Missionærer fra Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige er nutidige eksempler på den barmhjertige samaritaner, som Kristus opfordrer os til at blive. Jeg vil gerne fremhæve de missionærer, der er kaldet som tjenestemissionærer. De er eksempler for os på, hvordan tjeneste (1) åbner hjerter for Jesu Kristi evangelium, (2) giver os alle mulighed for at tjene uanset vores omstændigheder og (3) bringer Kristi kraft ind i vores liv.

First, Service Opens Hearts to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

In about 91 BC, Ammon, a Book of Mormon missionary, introduced himself to King Lamoni by saying, “I desire to dwell among this people for a time; ... [and] I will be thy servant.” Because of his service to the king, Ammon was granted an opportunity to “speak boldly, ... and tell [King Lamoni] ... by what power” he had performed his service. In return, the king promised that “whatsoever [Ammon] desirest ... [the king would] grant it.” Ammon’s only request was that the king listen to the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ammon’s service resulted in “thousands of souls [brought] to repentance.”

In our day, service continues to lead others to the gospel. Sister Bevan was serving as a teaching missionary when she began experiencing health issues requiring her to return home for treatment. Instead of being released, she was able to continue serving as a service missionary from home.

While visiting a park, Sister Bevan and a friend were prompted to talk to a mother with four young children, but they hesitated and the family drove away. The next day, they returned to the park, praying that this family would be there. Miraculously, the mother was sitting in the exact same spot as the day before. This time Sister Bevan and her friend approached the mother, got to know her, and discovered that she was in desperate need of temporal help. They provided assistance and then invited her to learn about the gospel.

Because of that service and invitation, the mother and her oldest child were baptized, followed by the next oldest a year later. They remain active members today. Sister Bevan knew this experience was divinely inspired, and it “proved to [her] that [she] was exactly where God needed [her] to be.”

Like Ammon and Sister Bevan, as we serve others, we “show forth good examples unto them” and they desire to know the “reason of the hope that is in [us].”

Jesus invites us to “go, and do thou likewise.”

Second, Service Allows All of Us to Minister Regardless of Our Circumstances

President Russell M. Nelson called on “every-

For det første åbner tjeneste hjerter for Jesu Kristi evangelium

Omkring år 91 f.Kr. præsenterede Ammon, en missionær i Mormons Bog, sig for kong Lamoni med ordene: »Jeg ønsker at bo blandt dette folk i nogen tid ... [og] jeg vil være din tjener.« På grund af Ammons tjeneste for kongen fik han lejlighed til at »tale frimodigt og ... fortælle [kong Lamoni], ved hvilken magt« han havde udført sin tjeneste. Til gengæld lovede kongen, at »hvad end [Ammon ønskede] ... [ville kongen] skænke [ham]«. Ammons eneste ønske var, at kongen ville lytte til budskabet om Jesu Kristi evangelium. Ammons tjeneste resulterede i, at »tusinder af sjæle [blev bragt] til omvendelse«.

I vores tid fortsætter tjeneste med at føre andre til evangeliet. Søster Bevan tjente som undervisningsmissionær, da hun begyndte at få helbredsproblemer, som krævede, at hun vendte hjem for at blive behandlet. I stedet for at blive afløst, kunne hun fortsætte med at tjene som tjenestemissionær fra sit hjem.

Da hun besøgte en park, blev Søster Bevan og en veninde tilskyndet til at tale med en mor med fire små børn, men de tøvede, og familien kørte væk. Den næste dag vendte de tilbage til parken og bad om, at denne familie ville være der. Mirakuløst nok sad moderen på nøjagtig samme sted som dagen før. Denne gang henvendte søster Bevan og hendes veninde sig til moderen, lærte hende at kende og fandt ud af, at hun havde desperat brug for hjælp. De hjalp hende og opfordrede hende derefter til at lære om evangeliet.

Takket være denne tjeneste og opfordring blev moderen og hendes ældste barn døbt, og et år senere blev det næstældste barn døbt. De er stadig aktive medlemmer i dag. Søster Bevan vidste, at denne oplevelse var guddommeligt inspireret, og den »beviste for [hende], at [hun] var præcis der, hvor Gud havde brug for [hende]«.

Når vi tjener andre, er vi, ligesom Ammon og søster Bevan, »gode eksempler for dem«, og de ønsker at kende årsagen til »det håb, [vi] har«.

Jesu opfordrer os: »Gå du hen og gør ligeså.«

For det andet giver tjeneste os alle sammen mulighed for at drage omsorg uanset vores omstændigheder

Præsident Russell M. Nelson opfordrede »al-

worthy, able young man to prepare for and serve a mission” and for every able young sister to “pray to know if the Lord would have [her] serve a mission.” He promised that “your decision to serve a mission, whether a proselyting or a service mission, will bless you and many others.” Service missions changed the definition of the wordable. Now every worthy young man and woman who desires to serve a full-time mission for the Lord can do so, with very few exceptions.

Elder Holgado is an example of being able to serve regardless of personal circumstances. He was born with a rare genetic disorder, which precluded him from serving a teaching mission. Elder Holgado was called as a service missionary and volunteered in the bishops’ storehouse, where he helped others get the assistance they needed. He stocked shelves, bagged vegetables, and crushed cardboard boxes.

As Elder Holgado spoke in sacrament meeting after his mission, he shared that “God needs service missionaries. He needs people to love and serve others. These people stock toilet paper, bag broccoli, build furniture, and are good to people.”

You don’t need to have a service assignment or wear a name tag to do good. Every act of service is recognized by the Savior. We are all able to help others come unto Christ by serving with loving-kindness. We can all minister in Christ’s name to the one through the power of the Holy Ghost and live as examples of faith in Jesus Christ. Service allows us to present ourselves as living sacrifices who are acceptable to God.

Jesus invites us to “go, and do thou likewise.”

Third, Service Brings the Power of Christ into Our Lives

A young missionary who transferred from a teaching assignment to a service assignment struggled with some personal challenges that left him needing Christ’s healing power. Consecrated service brought that power into his life. He said, “I felt that when I was struggling, I could feel Christ lifting me up. There is something special about seeing Him bless people through a food pantry, in the temple, and through His gospel.”

leværdige unge mænd, der er i stand dertil, [til] at forberede sig til og tage på mission« og alle unge søstre, der er i stand til det, til at »bed[e] om at vide, om Herren ønsker, at [hun] tager på mission«. Han lovede, at »jeres beslutning om at tjene på en mission, om det er en forkyndende mission eller en tjenestemission, vil velsigne jer og mange andre«. Tjenestemissioner ændrede definitionen af ordene i stand til. Nu kan alle værdige unge mænd og kvinder, der ønsker at tjene på en fuldtidsmission for Herren, gøre det, med meget få undtagelser.

Ældste Holgado er et eksempel på, at man kan tjene uanset personlige omstændigheder. Han blev født med en sjælden genetisk lidelse, som udelukkede ham fra at tjene på en undervisende mission. Ældste Holgado blev kaldet som tjenestemissionær og meldte sig frivilligt til biskoppens forrådshus, hvor han hjalp andre med at få den hjælp, de havde brug for. Han fyldte op på hylder, pakgede grøntsager i poser og pressede papkasser.

Da ældste Holgado talte til nadvermødet efter sin mission, fortalte han, at »Gud har brug for tjenestemissionærer. Han har brug for mennesker, der elsker og tjener andre. Disse mennesker fylder toiletpapir på hylderne, pakker broccoli i poser, bygger møbler og er gode mod andre mennesker.«

Man behøver ikke at have en tjenesteopgave eller bære et navneskilt for at gøre godt. Hver eneste handling, vi gør i tjeneste, anerkendes af Frelseren. Vi er alle i stand til at hjælpe andre med at komme til Kristus ved at tjene med kærlig venlighed. Vi kan allesammen drage omsorg i Kristi navn gennem Helligåndens kraft og leve som eksempler på tro på Jesus Kristus. Tjeneste giver os mulighed for at fremstå som levende ofre, der er Gud til behag.

Jesus opfordrer os: »Gå du hen og gør ligeså.«

For det tredje bringer tjeneste Kristi kraft ind i vores liv

En ung missionær, der blev forflyttet fra en undervisningsopgave til en tjenesteopgave, kæmpede med nogle personlige udfordringer, der gjorde, at han havde brug for Kristi helbredende kraft. Hengiven tjeneste bragte den kraft ind i hans liv. Han sagde: »Da jeg havde det svært, kunne jeg mærke, at Kristus løftede mig. Der er noget særligt ved at se ham velsigne mennesker gennem et fødevareuddelingssted, i templet og

This elder began to feel deeper joy, and his newfound enthusiasm blessed him and his entire family. The Spirit entered their home more abundantly, they attended the temple together more regularly, and Christ became a greater focus in their family. This missionary believes that Christ saved his life and blessed his family through service.

President Nelson taught, “Willingness to serve and strengthen others stands as a symbol of one’s readiness to be healed” by the redemptive power of the Savior.

Jesus invites us to “go, and do thou likewise.”

Service Missionaries Are Examples of Consecrated Disciples of Jesus Christ

When you or a family member is blessed with a call as a service missionary, that is a moment to celebrate. Your family will now have a set-apart representative of the Lord Jesus Christ living in your home. That will change all of you for the good. There should be no disappointment in any call to serve. We sing, “I’ll go where you want me to go” and “I’ll be what you want me to be.” Here is an opportunity to show that we really mean what we say!

To all of you who serve, and especially to the over 4,000 young service missionaries, we love you! If teaching missionaries are the Lord’s mouth, then service missionaries are the Lord’s hands, and you are not second-class missionaries. Each of you is vital to the gathering of Israel. President Nelson taught that “anytime we do anything that helps anyone ... to make and keep their covenants with God, we are helping to gather Israel.”

You service missionaries gather Israel in so many ways, and your service changes lives. Often you don’t know who the beneficiary of your service is, but God knows. Always remember that “inasmuch as ye [serve] one of the least of these, ... ye [serve Him].” We hear your voices as you volunteer at Church call centers; we see your smiles as you help in community organizations; and we feel your light as you serve in temples. You feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and give drink to the thirsty.

We all need to go and do likewise.

Service Is the Lifeblood of Disciples of Christ

gennem hans evangelium.«

Denne ældste begyndte at føle en dybere glæde, og hans nyfundne entusiasme velsignede ham og hele hans familie. Ånden kom mere rigeligt ind i deres hjem, de gik mere regelmæssigt i templet sammen, og Kristus blev et større fokus i deres familie. Denne missionær tror på, at Kristus reddede hans liv og velsignede hans familie gennem tjeneste.

Præsident Nelson sagde: »Villighed til at tjene og styrke andre viser, om man er klar til at blive helbredt« ved Frelserens forsonende kraft.

Jesus opfordrer os: »Gå du hen og gør ligeså.«

Tjenestemissionærer er eksempler på at være hengivne Jesu Kristi disciple

Når I eller et familiemedlem bliver velsignet med et kald som tjenestemissionær, er det et øjeblik, der skal fejres. Jeres familie vil nu have en indsat repræsentant for Herren Jesus Kristus boende i jeres hjem. Det vil ændre jer alle til det bedre. Der bør ikke være nogen skuffelse over et hvilket som helst kald til at tjene. Vi synger: »Jeg går, hvor du sender mig hen« og »Jeg vil røgte det kald, du mig gav.« Her er en mulighed for at vise, at vi virkelig mener, hvad vi siger!

Til alle jer, der tjener, og især til de over 4.000 unge tjenestemissionærer: Vi elsker jer! Hvis undervisende missionærer er Herrens mund, så er tjenestemissionærer Herrens hænder, og I er ikke andenklasses-missionærer. Hver og en af jer er afgørende for Israels indsamling. Præsident Nelson sagde, at »hver gang vi gør noget, der hjælper nogle ... til at ... indgå [og holde deres] pagter med Gud, bidrager vi til Israels indsamling«.

I, tjenestemissionærer, indsamler Israel hver dag på så mange måder, og jeres tjeneste ændrer liv. Ofte ved I ikke, hvem der nyder godt af jeres tjeneste, men Gud ved det. Husk altid, at når I tjener »en af disse mine mindste ... [tjener] I [ham]«. Vi hører jeres stemmer, når I arbejder som frivillige i Kirkens callcentre, vi ser jeres smil, når I hjælper i lokalsamfundets organisationer, og vi mærker jeres lys, når I tjener i templer. I giver de sultne mad, klæder de nøgne og giver de tørstige noget at drikke.

Vi må alle gå hen og gøre ligeså.

Tjeneste er hjerteblodet hos Jesu Kristi disciple

Service has the power to open hearts to the gospel and allows all of us to give our whole soul to Christ. It changes our hearts to become more like Him, and in the process, we lift others. President Nelson once asked, “In this world smitten with spiritual decay, can individuals ... make a difference?” His answer: “Yes! ... ‘The covenant people of the Lord, ... armed ... with the power of God in great glory’ ... can lift the lives of all humankind.” Through service we change hearts—and the world.

Christ “went about doing good.” He ministered to the sick, gave sight to the blind, and visited the downtrodden. He cooked meals, helped at wedding feasts, and fed thousands who were hungry. As we give service in Christ’s name to the one, we become increasingly holy and worthy of the gift of eternal life. Jesus Christ lives. He is my Savior and yours. He is our Redeemer. He is our great example of ministering. I invite each of us to go and do likewise. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Tjeneste har kraften til at åbne hjerter for evangeliet og giver os alle mulighed for at give hele vores sjæl til Kristus. Den forandrer vores hjerte, så vi bliver mere som ham, og i den proces løfter vi andre. Præsident Nelson spurgte engang: »Kan enkeltpersoner ... gøre en forskel i en verden, som er smittet med åndelig forfald?« Hans svar var: »Ja! ... »Herrens pagtsfolk, ... [som er] udrustet ... med Guds kraft i stor herlighed« ... kan opløfte hele menneskeheden. «Gennem tjeneste forandrer vi hjerter – og verden.

Kristus »færdedes overalt og gjorde vel«. Han drog omsorg for de syge, gav de blinde synet og besøgte de undertrykte. Han lavede mad, hjalp til ved bryllupsfester og gav tusinder af sultne mennesker mad. Når vi tjener den enkelte i Kristi navn, bliver vi mere og mere hellige og værdige til at modtage evigt liv. Jesus Kristus lever. Han er min Frelser og jeres. Han er vor Forløser. Han er vores store forbillede i at drage omsorg. Jeg opfordrer os alle til at gå hen og gøre ligeså i Jesu Kristi navn. Amen.