

# Five Qualities Every Christian Laborer Must Possess

## Lesson 2—Godly Conduct

### OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passage: Mark 9:31-37; Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:3-15

Key Verse: Luke 10:27

### BEFORE CLASS

Preparation: *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- How strongly developed is this quality in your life?
- To what extent would you consider yourself a “laborer” for Christ?
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed on Sunday morning.

### CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

CONTACT 1--The first time a student is absent, give him a call.

CONTACT 2--Following the second absence, send him a postcard.

CONTACT 3-- The third week they are absent, pay him a visit.

THINK ABOUT IT: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, “It really doesn’t matter if you’re here or not.” Small things communicate great messages. Let the three “small” things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.

### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### Opening Questions

- *If you were a great leader, what would you be like? What would you do?*
- *What makes someone great?*
- *In what ways would you like to be great? (A great athlete, great at school, a great friend, a great person, etc.)*
- *How do you think God defines greatness?*

SAY: Today we’re continuing the series is simply: *The Five Qualities Every Christian Laborer Must Possess.*

- *Do you think greatness is one of these qualities?*
- *What quality did we talk about last week? (Godly speech)*

## **BIBLE LESSON—part 1**

*Choose a volunteer to read—Read Mark 9:31-37*

- *What kind of greatness do you think the disciples had in mind? (The kind of “greatness” that is worldly and temporary. Arguing about who was the greatest was common among Jews of that day. Their argument shows how influenced they were by their own culture and arrogance. It also shows their failure to understand Jesus’ statements about his suffering and death.)*
- *Why do you think they were silent when Jesus asked what they had been talking about? (They were probably embarrassed or they knew they had been arguing about something of which Jesus wouldn’t approve.)*

*SAY:* Jesus sat down. This was the posture a rabbi used when teaching. Unlike today, how a preacher stands to proclaim God’s Word, in Jewish culture a rabbi would stand to read God’s Word and then sit down to teach about it. Jesus is getting ready to teach the disciples a picture-lesson.

- *What was Jesus’ definition of greatness? (If you want to be first, you must make yourself last. If you will be greatest, you will be the servant of all. True greatness comes through serving others. In other words, the path to greatness is not up but down.)*
- *If true greatness comes through serving others, right now, how great would you be?*
- *What does Jesus’ point have to do with calling a child to Him? (True greatness entails caring about people, not about oneself, and not just caring for people you like or who are like you. A godly servant cares for “insignificant” people that others might overlook, such as a child. Why? Because Jesus cares for them.)*
- *So with this idea in mind, what do you think today’s topic is: What is one of the five qualities every Christian laborer must possess?*

*SAY:* Today’s quality is not just servanthood, but godly conduct. Godly conduct is not just the absence of “bad” character but the presence of God’s character. No word more greatly describes Jesus’ conduct on earth than that of a servant. To effectively live for Christ you must have godly conduct.

## **BIBLE LESSON—part 2**

*SAY:* Finish the following statement: *Look out for number \_\_\_\_\_.* (One)

SAY: The world says, “Look out for number one!” But God has a different standard for living. Let’s take a look at it.

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Matthew 20:20-28

SAY: Obviously Jesus’ previous lessons on “greatness” had not sank in. Here they are at the end of Jesus’ life, just before Jesus enters Jerusalem one week before His death and what are they still arguing about—Who is the greatest?

- *How would you have felt if you were a disciple and James and John’s mother had made this request for them?*
- *How did the disciples respond? (They were angry.)*
- *What kind of greatness do you think James, John, and their mother were asking for? (Obviously it was a position of honor—to be Jesus’ right and left-hand men, to sit on His sides.)*
- *What cup was Jesus referring to that He was about to drink? (The cup of suffering and death—the cup of a total servant.)*
- *How does Jesus describe Himself? (That He, the Son of Man, did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many.)*
- *If this is how Jesus lived, how ought we to live? (In the same manner—of not looking out for “number one” but of looking out for and caring about others.)*

**KEY VERSE**

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Luke 10:27

SAY: This verse has been called the Great Command because it is a summary of everything in the Christian life—to love God above all else and with everything and to love your neighbor as yourself.

- *In your life right now, could it be said that you love your neighbor, meaning everyone else—even your enemies, as yourself? Why or why not?*
- *What would happen if you made the decision to spend the rest of your life serving others instead of yourself? How would this affect your actions?*
- *How would your life change if you began to define success by how well the people around you are doing instead of how you are doing?*

SAY: Think about it—We usually choose the best for ourselves—the best seat, the best donut, the best of whatever...but what if we chose the best for others. What if we spent our lives looking out for the interests of others? This is God’s character and His definition of successful living.



## BIBLE LESSON—part 3

*SAY:* There is one more picture of Jesus' character that I want you to see today.

### Choose a volunteer to read—Read John 13:3-15

*SAY:* This event happened the evening before Jesus' death. So, what great truths would Jesus teach His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion? This was one of them—a life lived for others. This was one of Jesus' last great picture-lessons.

- *What does verse 3 say about Jesus? (He knew who He was and what His purpose was. He had nothing to prove.)*
- *If you knew this in your life, how might it affect how you treat others?*
- *Why do you think Peter refused at first to let Jesus wash his feet?*

*SAY:* Consider what Jesus was doing: Jesus and the disciples had to come to eat directly from the street. Ordinarily the host would appoint the task of washing their feet to the least of his servants. This was the most menial task, of removing their sandals and washing their dusty, sweaty feet. Somehow this task had not been done and none of the disciples were willing to humble themselves for it. After years of arguing who was the greatest, they would have considered this an admission that they were inferior to the others. The Gospel of Luke (Luke 22:24) indicates that they had been arguing about who was the greatest even as they had entered the room. Jesus now humbles himself to the position of the lowest servant of the house and Peter takes offense at this, probably feeling that Jesus should not degrade himself by assuming such a lowly position.

- *How did Jesus respond to Peter?*
- *What does Peter's response say about his heart? (Basically, if washing means having You in my life, then I don't want just a little, I want as much as I can get.)*
- *Have you ever considered that Jesus also washed Judas' feet? (Consider verse 11—Judas was in the room.) What can we learn from this?*
- *Read again Jesus' point in verses 12-15. How can you put these words of Jesus to action in your life this week?*

*SAY:* Consider the following people in your life and how you can serve them this week:

- *Your parents*
- *Your best friend*
- *A person that might be overlooked by or "insignificant" to others.*

- *People you see in Wal-mart*
- *Students in our youth group*
- *Your worst enemy*
- *Others: \_\_\_\_\_*

## **WRAP IT UP**

### **Prayer Time**

*SAY:* The purpose of the five qualities that we are talking about in this series is to challenge you to be holy every area of your life and to use this time in your life to let God chisel off any rough edges, to firm-up any weak spots, and to prepare you to live for Him as a campus missionary at school every day. To effectively live for Christ you must have godly speech and you must also have godly conduct, not just the absence of “bad” deeds, but the presence of God’s character in your life.

*Pray specifically today that your students will share Christ’s character and that they will be great in their service to others.*

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

### **Prayer Requests**