



DORDT COLLEGE

Digital Collections @ Dordt

Faculty Work: Comprehensive List

6-16-2016

Deliberately and Meekly Serving Our Lord

Joel K. Sikkema

Dordt College, joel.sikkema@dordt.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/faculty_work



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Sikkema, Joel K., "Deliberately and Meekly Serving Our Lord" (2016). *Faculty Work: Comprehensive List*. Paper 513.
http://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/faculty_work/513

This Blog Post is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Collections @ Dordt. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Work: Comprehensive List by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Dordt. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

Deliberately and Meekly Serving Our Lord

Abstract

"The Jesus miracles demonstrate that he is Lord over all."

Posting about Jesus, our role model, from *In All Things* - an online hub committed to the claim that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has implications for the entire world.

<http://inallthings.org/deliberately-and-meekly-serving-our-lord/>

Keywords

In All Things, Jesus, miracles, healing, Pharisees

Disciplines

Christianity

Comments

In All Things is a publication of the [Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service](#) at Dordt College.

Deliberately and Meekly Serving Our Lord

 inallthings.org/deliberately-and-meekly-serving-our-lord/

Joel Sikkema

“The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath.” –Luke 6:7

The Jesus miracles demonstrate that he is Lord over all. Rather than being bound by “laws” of the universe, he continually upholds the creation. When Jesus heals the man with a withered hand, he demonstrates His lordship clearly and deliberately, but without fanfare. The text does not suggest any fuss as Jesus performs this miracle. He simply says, “Stretch out your hand” (Luke 6:10).

Jesus’ deliberate, unpretentious lordship is an important reminder for us today.

Culture pulls us to take our focus off of our true Lord. At times, the distractions that first come to mind are temptations like the abuse of alcohol or drugs. But there are subtler pulls on our allegiance. Often, these are good things—careers, hobbies, financial stability, even our families—that become transformed into idols that we serve instead of serving Christ.¹

In the time of Jesus’ ministry, the Pharisees had fallen prey to an idol. To guide his people, God provided commands in the Old Testament (i.e., Mosaic Law). These laws were a good thing that helped God’s people serve Him fully. But, for the Pharisees, these laws grew into thousands of sub-laws that made faith legalistic and actually got in the way of central biblical commands to love God above all and to love your neighbor as yourself. Rather than standing in awe as Jesus healed the man’s withered hand, Jesus’ act of love infuriated the Pharisees because he violated their Sabbath laws. We all have traditions and habits in our lives. Many are good, but some have grown into idols that must be discarded so that we can focus on our true Lord.

As we seek to bring our focus back to Christ, His deliberate and modest actions provide an example for us to follow. Today culture pushes us to conform, rather than deliberately live to seek Christ as our one savior. Jesus is very intentional as he exposes and denounces idolization of Sabbath laws. Before healing the man, he paused and “looked around at them all” (Luke 6:10). Although deliberate, however, the miracle does not draw added attention to himself.

This balance of deliberate and meek actions serves as a model for us to follow. By serving Christ fully, our lives will be different than those around us. However, in this countercultural lifestyle, we must not draw added attention to ourselves because of our perceived righteousness (then we’d simply be like the Pharisees).

Prayer: Father, you are Lord over all. We stand in awe as You continually uphold your creation. Work in our lives to cast away idols so that we can focus on serving you deliberately and meekly. Amen.

Footnotes

1. see [Counterfeit Gods](#) by Tim Keller ↵