

CHRISTLICHE MISSIONARISCHE GEMEINSCHAFT INTERNATIONAL – DEUTSCHLAND
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 17/12/14



Usefulness in God's Kingdom
Your contribution to the body of Christ

HOW USEFUL ARE YOU TO GOD'S KINGDOM?

Paule M. D. Guezet

Preparations for Building the Temple

5 [a]When Hiram king of Tyre heard that Solomon had been anointed king to succeed his father David, he sent his envoys to Solomon, because he had always been on friendly terms with David. 2 Solomon sent back this message to Hiram: 3 “You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the LORD his God until the LORD put his enemies under his feet. 4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster. 5 I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God, as the LORD told my father David, when he said, ‘Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.’

6 “So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the Sidonians.” 7 When Hiram heard Solomon’s message, he was greatly pleased and said, “Praise be to the LORD today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation.”

8 So Hiram sent word to Solomon: “I have received the message you sent me and will do all you want in providing the cedar and juniper logs. 9 My men will haul them down from Lebanon to the Mediterranean Sea, and I will float them as rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will separate them and you can take them away. And you are to grant my wish by providing food for my royal household.” 10 In this way Hiram kept Solomon supplied with all the cedar and juniper logs he wanted, 11 and Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand cors[b] of wheat as food for his household, in addition to twenty thousand baths[c][d] of pressed olive oil. Solomon continued to do this for Hiram year after year. 12 The LORD gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him. There were peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty. **New International Version (NIV)**

David the father of Solomon, had already established a friendship with king Hiram. We see that king Solomon continued to nurture this relationship even after his father’s death. Solomon had a need and he presented it before king Hiram. He was not ashamed to present his need before this king. King Solomon wanted material to build the temple of God, so he sent messengers to king Hiram to present his request.

Solomon did not send the messengers empty handed, but he offered king Hiram payment for the material he needed to build the temple. His offer was to pay any price king Hiram set - as payment for the king’s men. King Hiram’s men would not work alone, but they would work together with king Solomon’s men. This offer pleased king Hiram. He had a need which he also presented to king Solomon in exchange for the labour and material to build the temple of God. King Solomon did not just ask for help without offering something in return. He had the means to pay for what he needed because he was a hard worker and had the means of payment.

What do you have to offer? Are you one of those people who ask and ask, but never get to offer anything? Do you have a mindset of always receiving from people to satisfy your needs and yet you are never ready to offer the same help to people? How useful are you to God's kingdom? Are you useful to your local church or you are one of those people who never contribute anything to the betterment of God's house? In which category are you?

There are people who think of their own needs and that these needs should be met immediately. This is not good! God expects us to have an attitude that is ready to give and serve. An attitude that is ready to work for the betterment of others. It is important to have something to offer others through your hard work. Solomon was able to offer king Hiram payment for what he needed because he was a hard worker. I am not saying that everything you receive from the brethren has to be paid for by giving something in return. No! That is not the case. I am saying a child of God needs to have a mentality and an attitude that is ready to give & serve, and not one that is focused on SELF.

I have noticed that when people have personal problems, they are the best engineers to think of solutions to their problems. These people have the capacity to see so far away when they want to solve their problems. These are people like Ahithophel, with a capacity to see far away. When it has to do with their problems, these people are so clever, but when it comes to church work and other people problems, it is as if they had their brains removed and they can not function well or think well anymore.

It is all about dedication, but people are too preoccupied with their own lives and they have no fire for the kingdom of God. I hope that people would learn to become a blessing to others and become eager to help those in need. This is how it all begins and this is the first step to growth. If we develop such an attitude, people around us will start to bless God when they see the good works of His children. Amen!