



# Second Nature People

I recently preached a sermon from Luke 17:1-10 entitled What Profitable Servants Do. All of the points in that message were important; however, I would like to highlight

point five of the message found in verses 7-10:

Luke 17:7-10 (NASB) *"Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'? <sup>8</sup>"But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup>"He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? <sup>10</sup>"So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"*

5. Guard against the inclination to **brag** or expect special recognition for normal kingdom citizen **behavior**.

People are impressed by those who can do what others cannot easily or consistently do. They are awestruck; not realizing that the person is either naturally gifted, has been educated to do it, or they have been trained and have practiced for a sufficient period of time to become proficient in doing it. That is why it is like "second nature" to them.

Those who have not accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and are therefore not *second natured* people, may find themselves frustrated and even offended when they do what they see *second natured* people doing. Why? Because our motivation matters!

The people of this world are evil and selfish. Yes, they do good things sometimes, but it is always for their good pleasure and not for God's good pleasure. (Even if it is done to help others, it is done because helping others makes the one doing the good deed feel good...not because doing good glorifies God.)

People in the world will often ignore the good done by others especially if it outshines them. They will seek to find something wrong in what was done and withhold the praise that those who are not *second natured* seek after. See, it is not enough to do good works. We must confess our sins and surrender to almighty God, so that by the righteousness of Christ we can be declared righteous before Him. Then our purpose in serving will be to glorify God.

Consequently, when we yield our lives to God, dedicate ourselves to the habits and practices that Jesus did, and are led by the Holy Spirit we will be like and hence perform like Jesus did. We become *second nature* people, and as we mature, act more and more like this every day.

Therefore, (going back to the original point) there is no reason to take the credit or brag when people praise *second natured* people about *second nature* behavior. Why? Because this is the fruit, the results produced by all those who are faithful children and servants of God's Kingdom. Our motivation for obeying him is to glorify him and this is what God does through those who obey and seek to glorify him.

So, no matter how impressed people are by it, do not boast or accept praise for doing what is difficult, but is right, helpful, good and glorifies God. Do not take credit for what is the result of God working in your life. We should do as 1 Corinthians 1:31 (NASB) says, "...**LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.**"

*-Pastor Michael Hammond Sr.*