

LEADER'S PREAMBLE

Think of some person in your life that you like less than anyone else. Ask the Lord who that person is.

- **Maybe that person wronged you or a family member.**
- **Or maybe they just rub you the wrong way.**

"Modern Peter"

A dialogue between a Deaconess and GOD

LEADER: "Lord, do you require more of men than what I am now doing? I'm busy in your work, yet I am not certain that it is what you have for me to do. Lord, what more can I do to serve you better?"

CONGREGATION: Nothing, my child."

LEADER: "But, Lord, why do I feel discontented with my service for you? I'm giving of myself and my money unsparingly. I'm a church deaconess and a Sabbath School teacher. I give much of my time to witnessing for you. What more can I do for you?"

CONGREGATION: "Nothing, my child."

LEADER: "But, Lord, there still remains a vacancy inside, in spite of my private and public devotion to you. What more can I do?"

CONGREGATION: "Nothing. Listen, my child, stop doing things for Me."

LEADER: “What? Now, Lord, let’s be reasonable. You’ve blessed my work for you; you’ve exhorted me to labor in your vineyard. What do you mean? What if I do stop doing things for you?”

CONGREGATION: “Then I’ll be able to do them through you.”

LEADER: “Oh...I think I see. Of course, Lord. My work for you is in vain unless you do it through me. Make me a fit channel, Lord. Do humble me and may I be a worthy vessel for you to use. Now, what task do you want to do through me?”

CONGREGATION: “None, my child.”

LEADER: “What? You said you’d work through me. What is your task for me?”

CONGREGATION: “My daughter, love Me.”

LEADER: “Now wait a minute, Lord. I’ve been a Christian for eleven years! What do you mean, ‘Love Me?’ I do love you. Now, that is settled. What is the next step?”

CONGREGATION: “There is no other step, loved one. Just love Me.”

LEADER: “You know I love You, Lord. Why, my whole life is taken up with service to you. What do you mean?”

CONGREGATION: “Your love for Me is revealed in your love to your fellow man.”

LEADER: “Oh, I know that, Lord. I do love my fellow man!”

CONGREGATION: “Do you love your Biology professor?”

LEADER: “Well, I don’t hate the guy. I just leave him alone and he leaves me alone.”

CONGREGATION: “Do you love your Biology professor?”

LEADER: “Now, look, we don’t get along. Our personalities clash. One cannot solve that—so, I avoid him.”

CONGREGATION: “I died for him...and live for him too.”

LEADER: “I know, Lord. And I would like to see him saved but you understand that I just don’t click with him.”

CONGREGATION: “Do you love your Biology professor?”

LEADER: “Oh, I respect him. And I think he respects me. I recognize that he is a fine fellow, and I’m sure he’d make a good Christian. But I guess I do think of him as being overconfident and conceited—even a bigot at times. You know his kind, Lord. Why all this about him, Lord? Look at all these other people I love. Why I could....”

CONGREGATION: “Do you love your Biology professor?”

LEADER: “He is the one person, Lord, that I just can’t stand. He’s pretty hard to take, but I do love...I guess everyone else, and certainly, you know I love you.”

CONGREGATION: “You only love Me to the extent that you love the person you like the least.”

LEADER: “But...well...then...I really don’t care about You then. But...I’ve been a Christian eleven years. I always thought I loved You. Now I see. Lord, thank You for revealing this to me. I will truly love You now.”

CONGREGATION: “You cannot, My child.”

LEADER: “But you said, ‘love Me’ and when I said ‘OK’ you...I don’t understand.”

CONGREGATION: “How can you love Me? There is no love in you. God is love.”

LEADER: “Then I cannot love anyone?”

CONGREGATION: “You are only the channel through which I can love anyone.”

LEADER: “Then love this world through me, Lord. This world of broken men. Thou didst love through death, Lord, O, love through me again!

CONGREGATION: “Yes, I will, my child.”