



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: The Practice of Service

Text: Mark 10:35-45

Theme: Jesus followers see themselves as eager servants of both God and others, especially in the community of faith.

Teaching Notes: Jesus' disciples often patterned their idea of greatness after their culture: get other people to serve you. Jesus flipped this on its head, reminding his followers that they were servants, just as he himself had come to serve others. Those who follow Jesus will imitate his pattern of looking after and meeting the needs of others. They will invest their own resources in sacrificially serving their families, churches, coworkers, and neighbors.

Outline:

1. Jesus teaches on service.

- a. Jesus redefines greatness in terms of service.
- b. Jesus redefines identity in terms of service.

2. Jesus models service.

- a. The centrality of service.
- b. The scope of service.

3. Jesus removes barriers to service.

4. Jesus motivates and empowers service.

- a. Remember what Jesus did for you.
- b. Receive the gifts of the Spirit.

Gospel Applications:

1. Observe and ask about the needs of others.
2. Be thoughtful about how God has designed you.
3. Do something.
4. Serve Jesus, not servicing.



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. What is/are the primary context(s) in which you currently serve others? (e.g. family, at work, at my kids' school, in a neighborhood organization, etc.)
2. How would you describe your service to your church family at this time? Who, when, where, how, how much, and why to do serve? What do you observe?
3. Consider your work/vocation. (If you're not working, think about the context where you spend the bulk of your daytime hours - like school.) How do you serve others in that context? What are some additional ways you could potentially serve others in that context?
4. Think about an experience of serving someone that you really enjoyed. What was it about that experience that you enjoyed?
5. What are your 2-3 main reasons why you don't serve? In other words, what are your barriers to service? What hinders you from being more of a servant?
6. Look at your answers to #5. What does the example of Jesus say about those barriers and objections? How does the Gospel address those things?
7. If you're completely honest with yourself, what motivates you to serve? (Test: Think about how you feel when others benefit from your actions, but no one seems to notice or appreciate that it was you that helped them.)
8. With the following, be as specific as possible. If God designed you to be a particular kind of servant . . .
 - What unique spiritual gift(s) do you have?
 - What natural abilities have you cultivated?
 - What are you passionate about? (What do you see that others don't?)
 - What unique life experience(s) do you have, good or bad?
9. Based on the needs of people/groups in your life, when/where/how could you step up to volunteer your services, contributing something meaningful that glorifies God and brings joy and flourishing to others?
10. What's one practical, specific thing you'll do with the message this week?