

ON TRACK BIBLE APPLICATION WEEK 5

MAKING YOUR BIGGEST DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” (Matthew 25:37-40)

I. Introduction

- A. We know we are on track when we are focused on things that Jesus says at judgment day will have made the biggest difference.
- B. We were made not only to know our purpose but to live our lives in ways that we make our biggest difference for the lives of people around us.
- C. Jesus taught us that we accomplish this by following His example in having his heart and living a life like He did focused around serving others.

To make an eternal difference you don't need a title, possessions, or position you just have to be willing to be a servant, who lives to give. Jesus taught and showed us that the way you become great is to choose to become small. It is being willing to lay aside your title and take up your towel.

II. Ways to live with a servant's heart.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Phil. 2:3-8)

- A. Realize that being a faithful servant begins with a mindset. **This mindset is:**

- 1. Countercultural
- 2. It means spending your life asking different questions.
 - Who can I add value to?
 - How can I add value to them?
 - What would be the best way to add value to them?
 - When should I value to them?

- B. It involves having a different motivation.
People who are performers are always promoting themselves, looking to advertise, network, get noticed. People who are servants do all they do as an act of worship. They are trying to make Jesus smile, and Him famous.

“hupertos”-under rowers

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father who is in Heaven.”

“What you’ve done to the least of these you’ve done to me.”

- C. Being a servant means being an initiator.
1. First responders have the biggest impact, and remembered the longest.
 2. You serve first when serving is always the first thing on your mind. You won’t remember what you were remembered for because it was just the way you did life.
 3. You have learned the secret of loving with unconditional love. Servants never keep score down here, because they know God is keeping score up there. To endure as a servant Jesus must not only be your focus but also be your source.
“The last and greatest human freedom is the freedom to choose your response to any situation.” Victor Frankl
- D. Having a servant's heart is all about choosing an attitude of “we” over “me”
1. Jesus emphasized love, because the revival he sent on Pentecost depended on the unity they built as a spiritual family.
 2. Our greatest witness to the world is how sincerely we love and serve each other. We make a difference alone we can start a movement together.
- E. Servants receive dreams from God and step out in faith, trusting God as their Source.
1. God loves to give “God-sized” dreams to people willing to give their lives to making a difference for others.
 2. A God given dream starts small, to grow big. God asked Moses, “What is in your hand?”
- F. Servants focus on faithfulness more than fruitfulness.
“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

Questions for Discussion

1. Can you recall being served by someone in a way that greatly impacted your life?
2. What is most challenging to you when you consider Jesus’ way of showing us how to make a difference?
3. Jesus laid aside things to serve. What might God be asking you to lay aside to become a better servant?
 - a. My agenda’s
 - b. My busyness
 - c. Excuses
 - d. My disappointments or selfish expectations in relationships with people
 - e. fatigue or discouragement
 - f. other
4. In considering the different arenas of my life where might God want me to start thinking more about serving? (church, work, home, friends, community, life group...)
What ideas do I have for doing that?
5. How could we show even more love towards each other in our group in a way that would bring revival and show the world the truth of Jesus’ love?