

The Message Gathering

The Five Facets Of Learning Love And Living Life

Session 4: Living With The Personality Of Christ - Servanthood

Recap:

Session 1: Living With The Grace Of God - Stooping

Session 2: Living With The Purpose of Our Savior - Salvation

Session 3: Living With The Humility Of Christ - Submission

Today . . .

Session 4: Living With The Personality Of Christ - Servanthood

Mark 10:42-45 (NIV)

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Truth:

Jesus Views His Followers As Servants Who Will Behave Like Him While Serving His Agenda.

Parable Of The Tenants

Matthew 21:33-43 (NIV)

"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ³⁵ "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They

will respect my son,' he said. ³⁸ "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" ⁴³ "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

Truth:

Those Who Chose To Be Tenants Vs Servants Dismiss The Agenda Of
God Resulting In The Personal Loss Of His Kingdom.

Parable Of The Talents

Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' ²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²² "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' ²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²⁴ "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' ²⁶ "His master

replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?'²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.²⁸ "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents."²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Truth:

Those Who Choose Their Own Personality And Discount The Talents God Gives To Serve His Agenda, Experience A Less Than Desirable Outcome!

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Four Statements From This Passage That Guide Our Servanthood:

1. Once Saved - We Become New - Like Christ - Once We're Made New - It's Not About Us Anymore - But About Others!
2. He Reconciled Us To Himself - To Give Us The Ministry Of Reconciliation!
3. Christ Not Counting Men's Sins - Has Given Us The Same Ministry Of Reconciliation!

Reconcile Defined: to *compound* a difference

God was in Christ To Make A Difference In His World

And Now We Are In Christ To Make A Difference In Our World!

4. Therefore - We Are Now Christ's Ambassadors - Representatives -

Statement Of Truth:

The Only Way To Really Learn Love And Live Life Is
By Taking On The Personality Of Christ Becoming A Servant To His Agenda.

Questions:

- Today What One Truth Or Statement Impacted You Most?
- How Does Having The Personality Of Christ Help You Fulfill The Purposes Of Christ?
- Share The Differences Between A Tenant And A Servant.
- On A Scale Of 1-10 (1 Being A Tenant And 10 Being A Servant) Where Do You Find Yourself?
- As A Group, Communicate What "Talents" Could Represent In Our Everyday Lives.
- Rate Yourself On A Scale Of 1-10 (with 1 Being Not Using Your Talents And 10 Being Using Your Talents All The Time)
- How Can You Choose The Personality and Purposes Of Christ This Week In Your Personal Life?