

Discussion Questions for Sunday, September 13

Session 5

1. Read Luke 18:9-14. Summarize the point of the story and why Jesus told it.

- What was at the core of the tax collector's attitude of "appropriate smallness"?
- What impact should this have when it comes to attitudes of superiority?
- Which of the two men are you more like these days?

2. When you are with a group of people, how do you tend to define who is the greatest in that group? Jesus' disciples were painfully like us. How do you think they would have defined greatness in Mark 9:33-37?

- According to Jesus, what is greatness?
- What is the hardest for you to accept about this definition?

3. In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus offers some enormously challenging words concerning the ministry of the mundane. Carefully review the passage. In what way does this passage most challenge you concerning the subjects of humility, servanthood, and true righteousness?

- When was the last time you served someone who might be considered “the least” by our cultural standards?
- How would your servanthood be different if you really believed you were serving Jesus as you served others?

4. Jesus is our best example of the ministry of the mundane. Read John 13:1-17. Why do you think this has stood out as one of the most remarkable acts of Jesus ever recorded?

- Peter was embarrassed at having Jesus wash his feet. Why do you think this was so?
- How do you do at receiving mundane service from others? What makes it easy or hard for you? How does being on the receiving end help cultivate a spirit of humility in our lives?

Small Group Questions:

1. Describe a current relationship or situation in which you are being called to the ministry of the mundane.
 - What is one of the hardest aspects of living as Jesus would in that situation?
 - What specific benefits are coming to your character because of it?
2. Sometimes, we must be interruptible for tasks that are not on our agenda for the day. This form of service could be called the ministry of availability. Periodically, we must live with the “latch off the door” so that we are available to talk or pray with troubled people. Can you recall a situation where you either allowed or didn’t allow yourself to be interrupted in order to help someone?