

life group study guide
“Me to We – Stirred to Compassion”
April 7 2013



“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.” – Ephesians 6:7 NIV

Introduction:

- What kind of legacy do you want to leave? Why?

“Legacy is not what's left tomorrow when you're gone. It's what you give, create, impact and contribute today while you're here that then happens to live on.”

Rasheed Ogunlaru

Americans are consumer-driven people. We like our stuff. We like our stuff our way. We like our stuff now! The problem with this mindset is that it steers us to be much more concerned about “me” than “others.”

- How do Ogunlaru’s idea of legacy and American consumer clash? To which camp does Jesus Christ call us?

Dying to Ourselves, Living for Others - Legacy

Read Mark 1:40-42

- What compelled Jesus to heal the leper?
- Jesus said he was willing to heal the leper. What might have been some reasons/excuses that he would give to not heal him?
- What things prevent you from serving? Are these legit and rational?

There are many reasons and excuses we might give for why we can’t serve. We might be afraid. We might say we do not have enough time, etc... Whatever the reason, most of these excuses would fall away if we were more intentional and prayerful about actually serving.

For me, the reason I don’t serve more often is very shallow. I lack the compassion that Jesus had for the leper. See, my pride gets in the way. I tend to give people the once over; measuring them to see if they meet some standard of worthiness. Pretty sad, but it is the consequence of doing life in a consumer-driven world that constantly screams it is all about “me.” Jesus’ way is so counter to this.

Read Luke 14:25-33

- Make a list of the things that you would expect a follower of Jesus is being asked to give up. Think beyond the material. How does this rub up against a “me” oriented culture?

The call of following Jesus is a call to die to self; our desires, our choice to allocate time and resources; our desire to compare ourselves to others. Jesus modeled this death and served “the least of these” for their good and His glory. He served out of compassion and empathy for the suffering of another that provoked a desire to help.

As I stated earlier compassion is one of missing ingredient in my life. So how do I get it?

Read Luke 14:7-11

- How does this passage relate to the previous passage on dying to self?
- What is the overarching theme of this passage?
- Discuss what it means to be humble. How is humility connected to following Christ?

Truly humble people only compare themselves to Christ. Ouch! You mean I can’t continue measuring people by my own standards? Of course not! Humility understands that all are sinners and all need a Savior. Understanding that under Christ all are on a level playing is the key to humility and the place where compassion can grow. Serving then becomes an act of helping another like sojourner get to their destination.

Serving – Building a Legacy that Begins a Legacy

Serving is a powerful action!

Read Matthew 5:13-16

- If you are not salt and light, what are you?
- How does being salt and light relate to serving others?
- What is the product of being salt and light, of serving the needs of others?

Serving others is not an option. It is what followers of Jesus do. Serving others is the legacy we leave for others, but it is potentially the beginnings of a new legacy for those we serve, who receive God’s love through our acts of compassion and who then begin to follow Jesus, too. How wonderful is that?

Application:

- What attitudes do I have about serving that I need God to change? Share these in your Life Group and pray about it.
- What do you want your legacy of serving to speak about yourself and Jesus?
- Is there a leper in your sphere of influence who needs a touch from Jesus’ compassion? Are you willing to be Jesus’ compassionate touch?
- Pray how your group can serve together over this next season of Life Groups.