

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Kingdom Provision” Matthew 6:1-4 Oct 5, 2019

Getting Started

We must recognize the immediate daily tension of the underlying reasons of why we seek Jesus and why we choose to follow Him. Our hope is to move from the perspective of Christianity that begins with the idea of “What about me?”, then settles for “What’s in it for me?” to know the reward of following Jesus = “It’s not about me.”

When you stop to think about it, all of us, when we first came to salvation in Jesus, came with a selfish need. We needed to be saved and the only Person who could save us was Jesus! While that was true, the rest of our Christian life needs to have a different focus. Jesus’ choice to die for our sins was not a selfish one, but a sacrificial and generous one. In this lesson, we are going to examine what it means to become sacrificial and generous like Jesus.

Who has taught you about sacrifice and generosity in your life and how did they do it?

Going Deeper:

He Challenges our Mindset: *“Beware of practicing **your** righteousness before other people in **order to be seen** by them, for then you will have **no reward** from your Father who is in heaven.” (Vs. 1)*

Serving out of Righteousness: *“your”*

Striving for Recognition: *“order to be seen”*

Squandering our Reward: *“no reward”*

Our worldly culture teaches us that when we do a good thing, we need to let everyone know. We give out trophies, plaques, and framed recognition certificates. We want the reward of public recognition that comes with being a

good righteous person. But the Jesus way tells us that we don't serve out of our own righteousness, but through Him working in us. We don't need to be seen, and we certainly don't need a measly human reward of recognition. In fact, Jesus warns us that if all we want is human recognition, then that is all we will get.

Christian leader C.S. Lewis once said, "It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

Why do you think we set our sights so low, on just receiving human approval?

He Corrects our Motivation: *"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward." (Vs. 2)*

- a. **Don't Broadcast it!** *"sound no trumpet before you"*
- b. **Don't Broadway it!** *"Hypocrites"*
- c. **Don't Billboard it!** *"that they may be praised by others."*

Some people just can't do anything unless they have someone to brag to about it. Whether it's giving a donation, or volunteering their time, or doing a good deed, they have to make sure everyone sees it. If we can't serve without a Facebook shot showing everyone where and how we're serving, then we need to check our motives.

How do you check your motives in a 'selfie' world?

How do you serve in humility without talking about it?

How can you move the focus off of yourself and your service and onto the value and dignity of the people you are serving?

He Commands our Methodology: *“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing (Vs. 3) so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”* (Vs. 4)

- a. **Live aware of the Needy:** *“But when you give”*
- b. **Look not to be Noticed:** *“giving may be in secret”*
- c. **The LORD won't let you be Neglected**

Relationship is the Reward: *“your”*

Recognition is the Reward: *“sees”*

Revelation is the Reward: *“will”*

The solution is not to stop serving, because we struggle with pride and recognition. The solution is to keep serving, but to do so in a very different way. We serve not for the recognition of others, but in grateful response to the One who has served us and saved us in our greatest need: salvation. When we serve unto the Lord, He becomes our reward.

If you were able to start serving in the Jesus way, how can you see this changing your understanding and appreciation of serving others, and deepening your relationship with Jesus?

Take Away: The pleasure of giving is found when we are not concerned in being recognized for giving, but instead in the knowing that we possess the right reason in why we are giving! JESUS!

PRAYER: