

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### “Outreach at Illuminate”

Matthew 25:31-40; 28:19-20; James 1:22-25



#### JASON'S MAIN POINTS:

*We cannot afford to be indifferent towards Jesus and His return.*

*We can't afford to be indifferent towards the resources that God gives us.*

*We can't afford to be indifferent towards the needy people all around us.*

#### OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS:

*Jesus came to serve, not to be served. He calls us to follow in his steps.*

*When we serve the poor and needy, we are really serving Jesus.*

**READ:** Matthew 20:28; 25:31-40; 28:19-20; James 1:22-25

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When Jesus was approached by the mother of James and John (sons of Zebedee), she asked that they be given the seats of honor in the kingdom. But Jesus asked them, “Are you ready to be crucified like I am?” They blithely replied they were. But Jesus said that it was not up to him. It was a matter of the heart to be judged by the Father. Jesus then laid down the harsh reality—Jesus came to give his life to ransom (redeem from Satan’s clutches) a lost and bewildered humanity.

Try to put yourself in the sandals of James and John and think about how Jesus’ answer would have rocked your world view and challenged everything you thought you knew about serving God.

- What do YOU think laying down your life means?
  - Does the stark reality that to follow in Jesus’ footsteps means you’ll have to lay down your life bother you? (Note that the word for “life” that Jesus used in Matthew 20:28 was the word “psyche”—the mental life, the intellect, emotions and will.
  - How would that work out in daily practice with those in your small group? Your work place? Your neighbors? Friends?
2. Some of us feel like we have given more than our fair share in serving the church and, yet, we don’t get any recognition or attention.
    - Have you ever felt that way? When and why?

- What does Luke 17:7-10 have to say about the reward we often seek for serving?
- What does it take to keep an individual excited and involved in serving? What should it take?

3. Jason said, “Anyone who claims the name of Jesus must have the heart of Jesus and he came not to be served but to serve.” So, when we show the kindness of Jesus to others – especially those who don’t “deserve” it (as if YOU did) – what does Jesus say we are really doing (Matt. 25:40)? How does that work?
4. Is it enough when we see a homeless person begging for money or food at an intersection or parking lot entrance to feel pity for them, or should the spirit of Christ inside us motivate us to do something more? Why? What would that be?

- What if you give that person \$20 thinking they will use it for food, but in reality they might use it for booze or drugs. Does their potential abuse of the gift get us off the hook of giving it? Why or why not? What Scripture could you refer to in order to help here ?Is it our job to see to it that the gifts we give are used as WE intended them?
- So, what about the idea of taking that person with you to a nearby restaurant and buying them a meal and sitting with them while they eat it, and sharing the gospel with them? Is that something you could see yourself doing? Why (or why not)?
- How would the following scriptures help you deal with the issue of giving to the guy on the street corner (Leviticus 25:35; Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Isaiah 58:6-7)?

5. Jason said that “giving loosens your grasp on the things of this world; they no longer own you and that is a blessing.” Agree or disagree? Why?
6. This morning you heard about several of our local and global outreach partners. Which, if any, would you be willing to serve with? Why or why not?

As you leave tonight, there are two basic things you can do to serve our community and our global partners:

1. Sign up for Treat Street!
2. Pray for Gaza and write to Cuba!

**...JUST DO IT!**