

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Serving – Inside Our Walls”

Matthew 23:1-12; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10



JASON'S MAIN POINTS:

What do you have to give? - Everything you've been given.

Service makes your life meaningful.

God will reward you eternally for your service.

OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS:

You're never going to be great until you serve others. The visible demonstration of our love for God and others is found in service.

Ministry in the church is not done by the pastor and paid staff—it is done by the saints in the seats. The pastor and staff have the job of equipping the saints to do their mission.

READ: Matthew 20:20-28; 22:36-40; 23:1-12; Mark 10:45; John 12:25-26; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:1-8; 1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 4:10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Jason said that Jesus defined “influence” very differently than our social media culture does today. He said, “*You're never going to be great until you begin to serve others.*” How does this differ from the trend in our culture and social media today? How could we speak relevantly for Jesus’ view to our culture and the media?
2. In a parallel passage to Mark 10:45 – Matthew 20:20-28, in verses 27-28, Jesus says: “*...whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” A servant (diakonos in Greek) is one who serves to benefit another, like a waiter. A slave is one who does the will of another, whether as a matter of choice or not. How does this help you understand Jesus’ words in the above text, and in relation to serving in the church today?
3. Jason also said that “*the visible demonstration of our love for God and others is found in serving.*” Note that he did NOT say the demonstration of our being loved BY God. Is it possible to love God and yet not have a heart that is bent on serving your brothers, sisters, and mankind in general? What does that look like practically? How does the idea of serving in the church hit you? Are you serving now? Why or why not?
4. We all have spiritual “muscles” that are not developed in a gym, but in serving others. How would you rate your spiritual muscles, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is the wimpiest of the wimpy and 10 is a real muscle-bound serving hero? Now, how do you think others would rate you? Why?
5. Jason said of Illuminate that its strength is “wrapped up in the several hundred lay ministers who serve in over 30 different ministries... “*We are healthy only to the degree that our people are plugged in and serving.*” Is this really true? Why do you think so?
6. Jason said, “*When we are serving others, we are closer to the heart of Jesus than at any other time.*”
 - Take a look at Philippians 2:1-8. In verse 4, most translations read: “*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others*”. The two words “*not only*” were added in the very latest manuscripts, and most scholars don’t believe they should be added. Why do you think scribes would have added these two words? How does it change what Paul is saying, and how could leaving those two words out better fit the whole context of 2:1-8? How would it change your view of serving?
 - Following this train of thinking, Jason also said that when we worry about the needs of other people, God always seems to find a way to take care of our needs. Do you find this to be true? Can you share of a time where God met your needs as you were focused on those of others?
7. In 1 Peter 4:10, Peter commands his readers (and us) to employ our gifts in serving one another as good stewards of God’s grace (the word for gifts, or spiritual gifts in the New Testament comes from the same word as grace).
 - Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is (are)? How do you know? Are you exercising it (them) right now in serving others? How?
 - If you don’t, would you like help to discover your giftedness and how that fits in serving at Illuminate? You can by signing up for GPS.
8. Finally, in your group, toss this question around: How can we, in our group, serve each other and our church and thereby grow in the power and grace of God? What do we need to do, individually and as a group, to go where God wants to take us as individuals and as a church?