



Sermon Discussion Guide




"Servant Love"

Matthew 20:17-28

Ray Cortese, April 18 & 19, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Matthew 20:17-28. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Do you like to be served? Are you addicted to self-gratification? Do you have a Messiah complex? Do you think that the world revolves around you? Do you think the good life is to put yourself first, or put yourself last?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, "What was the sermon about on Sunday?" what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

SERVANT LOVE: THE COUNTER-CULTURAL PATH

- 3 *Kingdom prominence involves suffering.* How has this been true since the time of Christ? Have you experienced suffering lately? How is suffering an opportunity for the advancement of the kingdom of God?

- 4 *Kingdom prominence involves service.* What is the way to impact culture? Explain the following statement: “A nobody in the kingdom of God is a somebody.”
- 5 Ray talked about a doctor in a dangerous part of Africa, a family who moved out of their two-story house and into a mobile home park, and a theologian who lived with mentally disabled adults. What was challenging to you about these illustrations?

SERVANT LOVE: THE TRANSFORMING POWER

- 6 What is wrong with saying, “just follow Jesus, or just do what Jesus would do”? Read Matthew 20:28 again. How does this verse set Jesus apart from the founder of every other world religion?
- 7 How does sacrificial, substitutionary love have the power to change us? How has it changed you?
- 8 What was the point of the illustration of the soldier who saved a little girl in Afghanistan?
- 9 Ultimately, what is the reason why we don’t have to be committed to serving ourselves in this life?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?