



the week of
November 9-14



DAY ONE SERVE Read Mathew 10:35-45

This past Wednesday we learned about serving people who are the least which runs completely opposite from what we encounter in our culture every day. What we see on T.V. or read about on the web is that greatness is the achievement of power, wealth, popularity, or skill. While those achievements are not necessarily bad, they aren't how Jesus defines greatness.

Jesus' disciples struggled with this too. Believing Jesus to be the coming King (which he is), they were already posturing themselves to procure positions of "greatness." They wanted the best seat in the house and were making plans to obtain it.

To be honest, this way of seeing greatness is as old as humanity and one with which we still struggle today. We're constantly looking at how we can separate ourselves from the rest of the pack. We want greatness and everything in our culture is telling us to promote ourselves to get it. Jesus' definition couldn't be more upside down.

IN YOUR CHAIR TIME TODAY

Take a few moments at the beginning of this week to consider how we "naturally" define greatness. Write out a simple definition of greatness from the perspective of current culture. Attempt to see how you've adopted this definition of greatness in different areas of your life. As you identify places where you've adopted a "worldly" greatness, ask God to give you his heart that you might be great in his eyes and in his Kingdom.

DAY TWO Read Galatians 6:7-10

Read the passage and then choose one verse/thought related to your words and answer one of these three questions:

1. What does it say about God?
2. What does it say about you?
3. What does it say about others?

As you spend time in the Chair today, talk to God about what you read/learned and respond appropriately to it.

DAY THREE LOVE YOUR ENEMY Read Mathew 25:34-40

To what extent is God paying attention? **Jesus says that when we do something for someone, it's the same as doing it for God.** He highlights that using an interesting little phrase: *Whatever you did for the least of these...*

Just to be clear, Jesus isn't saying that some people are less valuable. Not at all. He's talking about people who are... least powerful.

least popular.

least noticed.

least rich.

least able to take care of themselves.

We're hard-wired to move toward people who have something to offer us: the people who are most popular, powerful, cool, and wealthy. And Jesus is telling us that He's honored when we flip that upside down and move toward those who are least able help themselves and least able do anything for us. Doing anything for them gets His attention. In fact, it's like doing that thing for Him. **Following Jesus = focusing on people who can do the least.**

IN YOUR CHAIR TIME TODAY

So today I want to challenge you to give it a try. First take a moment to begin memorizing Matthew 25:40 and let it guide your thinking. You don't have to move to another country or sign up for a year of volunteering. **Just do something.** Anything. For someone else in need. For someone who can't do anything for you. Even though it'll be inconvenient and uncomfortable, do something.

DAY FOUR Read Philippians 2:5-8

Read the passage and then choose one verse/thought related to your words and answer one of these three questions:

- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an application to make?
- Is there something new about God?

As you meet with God today, talk to Him about what you read/learned and respond appropriately to it.