

I. ME

- A. Series Review
 - 1. How do we know we are transforming?
- B. Last week- Authentic Relationships... Choose Love
- C. Transforming like this actually makes you a happier person.
 - 1. "Following Jesus makes your life better and you better at life."
 - 2. Not easier... it's much more demanding, but it makes it better.
 - 3. Counterintuitive
 - 4. Most counterintuitive are this week and next week.
 - 5. You'll think I'm crazy... but these next two weeks have the power to change your life and make it better and you happier.
 - 6. But you're not going to want to do it :)
- D. When I've been least happiest
 - 1. When I was concerned about myself the most
 - 2. Most worried about my comfort and ease of life
 - 3. Trying my hardest to make me happy.

II. WE

- A. We all do it.
 - 1. Spend a lot of time, energy, money, effort, to be happy, comfortable, safe... have easy life.
 - 2. Why do we work so hard and worry so much about having it easy?
- B. We start using people to help make our lives easier/better.
 - 1. They either become tools or obstacles to that comfort.
 - 2. So we look for ways to get them to do what we want them to do...
 - 3. Authority... not that we always call it that... but we put ourselves/wants above them and expect them to serve our goal of a good life.
 - 4. We expect to be the kings and queens of our own little kingdoms
- C. We keep trying to find the upper hand... blaming, manipulating, guilt, anger, cold shoulder, belittling, mocking...
- D. Fastest way to a miserable, lonely life.
- E. We fight for authority and happiness and we never actually get either.
- F. BUT... Jesus said the way to happiness and true authority is by selflessly serving.
 - 1. It doesn't make sense
 - 2. But it's true

G. Selflessly Serving- Am I leading the way in serving others?

- H. Great example in Jesus first followers.

III. GOD (Matthew 20:20-28)

A. Background.

1. Jesus has been talking about the Kingdom of God and showing His power and authority.
2. Really exciting for these Jewish boys... Jesus had even told them that they would rule with him one day.
3. Got two brothers thinking... if we are gonna rule... let's make sure we are the highest of the high.
4. Got their mom to ask Jesus for a favor...

B. V. 20-21

1. "Mom go ask him if we can be the top of the top. If we can be the ones closest to the authority."
2. Have the most honor, respect, and power.
3. I'd probably do the same thing
4. **Example... "Do you know who I am?"**

C. V. 22-23

1. Cup- What happens to someone
2. "You think you can handle the heat?"
3. "Yeah of course."
4. "Well, you'll get to go through it... but who sits where? My dad's in charge of the seating chart."
5. "But I know what you're asking and it's the wrong question."

D. V. 24

1. No duh.

E. V. 25

1. "Of course. That's how it's been since the beginning of time.
2. That's why we've hitched our wagon to you. You're the one who's finally gonna let the Jews lord it over everyone else and since we're your guys we are gonna be on the top!"
3. Then Jesus turns everything the entire world has every thought about leadership completely upside down.

F. V. 26

1. "What?! NO!"
2. I didn't into this to be walked on even more!
3. "Wait it gets worse."

G. V. 27

1. SLAVE
2. No rights, position, respect, or authority, their lives were completely used for serving their masters.
3. Serving others was their whole identity
4. **Serving- meeting someone else's needs**
5. "How is this possible Jesus? We are YOUR guys! If you are who you say you are then the whole world should be bowing to us!"
6. Jesus- "Not the point of all of this."
7. From now on, **greatness is not measured by how much you can have done for you but by how much you do for others.**
8. Not measured by how many people know who you are, or how many people answer to you, how many people you are above, how quickly people do what you tell them to do. How respected you are.
9. It's measured by how much of your life is spent meeting other people's needs.

H. V. 28

1. Jesus is the perfect example of someone who selflessly serves.
2. Creator of the universe, all authority, had every RIGHT to demand obedience... gave up everything to meet our needs.
3. Suffered, tortured, humiliated for our needs.
4. Rights were completely abused.
5. But he chose to serve with his life and his death.
6. Used his authority to serve us.
7. **The purpose of authority is to serve others**
8. And if we are his followers we are to do the same thing.

IV. YOU

- A. So I just let myself get walked all over?
 - 1. Is it getting walked all over if it's your choice?

- B. But what about MY RIGHTS? My happiness? My comfort.
 - 1. You want to have your rights taken care of, you want respect, even authority?
 - 2. **Serve.**

- C. When you meet someone else's needs something very strange happens.
 - 1. They start respecting you, relying on you, looking to you as someone who has authority b/c you can meet their needs.
 - 2. They start wanting to listen to you, take your point of view.
 - 3. **Selfless service is the road to true authority**
 - 4. Think of the best boss you've ever had... task master? Prideful? Demanding respect?
 - 5. Or did they serve you by using their position to bring out the best in you? Use their authority to make your life better? To make you more successful, effective?
 - 6. And you respected them b/c they served you.
 - 7. You didn't think of it that way... but that's exactly what it was.
 - 8. They saw that their position of authority gave them the ability to serve others.
 - 9. Why do you think we get so angry when we think a president is only out for their own good?

- D. If you look at many of the most successful people and organization their organizational chart is turned upside down.
 - 1. The supervisor or boss is represented as serving, empowering, supporting, holding up the person who is actually responsible TO them.
 - 2. Same with the Kingdom of Jesus.
 - 3. Jesus- Church leaders (apostles, prophets, evangelists, Pastor/Teachers)-Then Elders- then the congregation- then the world we are trying to reach (serve by giving them Jesus).

- E. So how?
 - 1. Difference between obligation and opportunity.
 - 2. **Obligation**- you have to
 - 3. **Opportunity**- you get to if you choose to
 - 4. Do you see life as a bunch of obligations you have to do or opportunities to serve?
 - 5. That task no one wants to do... you can see it as an obligation or an opportunity to serve.
 - 6. That obligation someone else has... you can choose to do it for them as an opportunity to be great and serve.
 - 7. **One person's obligation is another's opportunity.**
 - a. Dishes, Diapers, Finances, cleaning out the microwave in the break room, paperwork...
 - b. **Pastor's job**- equip Jesus followers for the work of the ministry... SERVICE

F. Homework: Ask yourself... How can I be great today?

- 1. Greatness is measured by how much you do for others.
- 2. Might not even be a lot of people... might be 3 or four people that you serve wholeheartedly every day.
- 3. Requires a change in how you view your life
 - a. I'm here to serve others, to help others have better lives and be better at life.
 - b. To succeed at life, work, and ministry.

- G. Funeral... “Man, they had a lot of titles, made it all the way to from assistant to the regional manager to the regional manager. Or VP to president”
 - 1. Or... They purposely chose to serve those around them. They were respected by everyone they met b/c they made it a point to make the lives of others better. I would have done anything for them b/c they always had my best interest in mind.

- H. One of the reasons the first Jesus-Followers were willing to die for Jesus.
 - 1. “I didn’t come to be served but to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many.”
 - 2. When you see a true SERVANT LEADER who lives like that... you find people willing to follow them into hell with nothing but squirt guns.

- I. So use whatever authority or roles you have... to serve.
 - 1. Find out the true path to a meaningful and fulfilling life.
 - 2. Not one where you are constantly trying to be served and have it easy.. but one where you are looking for every opportunity to be the servant.
 - 3. To be truly great.

V. WE

- A. Imagine...
 - 1. Respected in all relationships b/c you saw other’s obligations as your opportunity to serve.
 - 2. What if everyone did it?