



THURSDAY 09.09.10

Mark 2:1-5

This short story in Mark's Gospel is a wonderful picture of four friends who care very deeply for their disabled friend. Against all odds, they presented this man to Jesus in hopes that he might heal him. While Jesus does eventually heal him, he first forgives him of his sins.

- In verse 5 we are told that Jesus offered the paralytic forgiveness in response to "their faith." What does this tell us about how Jesus felt about the four men who brought the paralytic to Jesus?
- This scene provides an eloquent picture of discipleship. To be a disciple means to serve as a "stretcher bearer" for those who are described in Luke's Gospel as the least, the last and the lost. In what ways are you serving as a "stretcher bearer" for someone else? Who might God be calling you to serve in this way?



FRIDAY 09.10.10

John 13:1-17

Jesus had spent three years with the men who joined him for the Passover meal that night in Jerusalem. During that time he had instructed them in many ways, but in this final moment, John says that "he now showed them the full extent of his love." The implication is that this final lesson needed to be seen rather than heard.

- The servant of the house would have usually been the one to complete this menial task. The absence of a servant had left this task undone. Why would none of the disciples choose to wash the feet of their peers?
- Rather than finding something he enjoyed doing, Jesus chooses to serve in a way that no one desired. How does this challenge your understanding of how God might be calling you to serve? How might God be calling you to serve him today?



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *Coffee with Pastors Mike and David*
Scripture: **Matthew 22:34-40, Matthew 28:16-20**

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ who will love God,
love others and serve the world.*

Our strategy:

- Get people moving;
- Embed the Bible in everything;
- Create ownership;
- Pastor the community and the world.

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Introduction

This week we will complete our three-week journey through the scriptures that shape and define the mission of our church. We have said that the purpose of the church is to make disciples. Each week of this series we have looked at a different characteristic which we believe defines the Christian life. In the first week we looked at loving God. In our second week we looked at loving others. This week we add the final piece of the puzzle.

Disciples of Jesus Christ are committed to serving the world.

Why is service so essential to being a disciple of Jesus? The answer is really quite simple. Jesus' life was defined by service. As we reflect on the scriptures this week, may we each have the courage to ask ourselves the question, "What would the people who know me best say is the defining characteristic of my life?"

As you read this week, may this prayer guide you.

God, help me to understand more clearly how Jesus lived so that I can more appropriately model my life after his example. Give me the compassion that leads me to serve my neighbor and the conviction that calls me to bless the world as a witness of my faith in you. AMEN



TUESDAY 09.07.10

John 19:25-27

These three short verses in John's Gospel contain one of the most poignant pictures of Jesus' care and compassion. In the midst of his own immense suffering and pain, Jesus sees his mother, Mary. He not only recognizes her presence, he feels a sense of her pain and sadness on this horrible day. In response, Jesus offers to this disciple a very specific act of service to his Lord.

- When we think about serving God, we often think of a distant mission field or a particular act of religious service like sharing our faith or feeding the homeless. While both are necessary to further God's kingdom, Christ invites us to begin with those closest to our hearts.
- Today, list five people whom God has placed in your life to serve. For each of them, pray this prayer, "God, help me to lay down my life for _____."



MONDAY 09.06.10

Philippians 2:1-11

Today, Jesus continues to be an incredibly popular person in western culture. Most would say he was a great teacher who sincerely loved people. But liking Jesus is not the core conviction of the Christian faith. Philippians 2 reminds us that it is following him. It is living as he lived, loving as he loved, sacrificing as he sacrificed. Paul says it this way, "Be like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and love."

- If "being like-minded" is our primary task, how does Paul describe what that looks like in verses 3-11? How does he describe the attitude of Christ in verses 6-11?
- If our primary goal is to live like Jesus lived, what part does "serving the world" play in moving towards that goal? How has serving others helped you to have the attitude of Christ?



WEDNESDAY 09.08.10

Luke 4:14-19

Jesus' first act of public ministry happens in his hometown of Nazareth. In the synagogue where he had been raised as a young Jewish boy, Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2. This reading and Jesus' subsequent declaration of its fulfillment not only serves to identify Jesus to his hearers as the long-awaited Messiah, it also speaks to the good news he hopes to bring to the world.

- "Gospel" literally means "good news." Jesus is claiming that the Lord has anointed him to preach "good news." How would you describe the good news that Jesus brings?
- Jesus identifies four specific groups that are to be the recipients of his message including the poor, the imprisoned, the blind and the oppressed. Why name these four groups? In naming them, what is Jesus saying about the kind of news that he brings?
