

BE RICH

GIVE SERVE LOVE

Saved to Save, Saved to Serve

The invitation to follow Jesus does not merely carry with it the idea that human beings are saved *from* something— sin and the suffering it causes. Instead, followers of Jesus have always understood the invitation of Jesus as the process of being saved *to* something— getting involved in the redemptive work God is doing in the world. And the truth is, there is no more powerful way to extend the invitation of Jesus to others than by serving them without any strings attached, and in doing so, demonstrating that every person is created by God, with dignity, for something special.

Start Talking

1. Have you ever accepted a “free” gift or invitation, only to realize that it actually came with some strings attached? What happened? How did it make you feel?
2. Do you agree with the old adage that, “there’s no such thing as a free lunch?” Why or why not?

Looking Back

1. Which of our Be Rich partners did you decide intersects with your personal passions? How did you help make a difference in that area last week?
2. Were you able to guard against the temptation to shut up your compassion when you saw people with needs you could meet this past week?
3. What did you do for others that they may not have been able to do for themselves?

What About You?

1. In your mind, what is the purpose of being, quote-on-quote, “saved?” Why does it happen? What’s it for?
2. This may seem like an odd question, but do you ever try to put your purpose as a human being into words? How would you describe it? What are you here for?
3. How about your identity? As strange as it may seem, how would you verbalize who you are?
4. Why do you think these questions are so difficult and uncomfortable to confront?
5. How would you define, “humility?” What role do you think it plays in discovering purpose



and identity in life?

6. What are the consequences of living without a clear definition of your purpose and identity?
7. Danielle Strickland said that without a clear sense of humility before God, we may be tempted to serve out of insecurity (causing us to try to prove our worth, or manipulate others) or arrogance (causing us to use others, and control them for our own satisfaction). In what areas do you find yourself potentially serving out of arrogance or insecurity?

Look It Up

Read the Following Passages: John 13: 1– 15. Genesis 2:15. Philippians 2: 1 – 18.

1. John tells readers that by this point, Jesus knows his earthly life is coming to an end. What bearing do you think that knowledge has on his actions throughout the chapter? How does it change the way we understand what Jesus does, here?
2. What is significant about Jesus' decision to wash the disciples feet, in your opinion? What all is happening here?
3. How might the idea of God as a humble servant, and not an insecure parent or arrogant dictator, change the way we understand our questions of purpose and identity?
4. In Genesis two, we see a short explanation of God's project for humanity in the Garden of Eden. What did He seem to want from people when it came to Creation? What does this say about our identity as human beings?
5. What is the significance of Jesus removing his authoritative rabbinical cloak in order to wash his disciples' feet? If this were a movie, what would the director be trying to say to us with that image?

Putting It All Together

1. How does humility change the way we serve others?
2. While service is an inherently unselfish act, what personal benefits do you think come from pouring ourselves out in service for other people? How does it transform us?
3. Where can you inhabit Jesus' example of humbling himself in service of others in the next few days?
4. In the same way that Jesus "took off" the symbol of his status and willingly gave up his privileges, his followers will necessarily have to "take off" their own cloaks (i.e. give up their time, money, prejudice, need to be right) in order to serve. What do you need to "take off" this week? How can you do it?
5. What can you do this week when you're tempted to default back to operating out of a sense of arrogance or insecurity?

