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**SCRIPTURES:**

Genesis 1:26-28  
Matthew 5:3-10, 19

**INTRODUCTION:** Share about a time when someone led in a way that served themselves at the expense of others.

**SERMON SUMMARY:** Read **Genesis 1:26-28**. We continue to talk about how God created humanity to rule in His image. **What does “rule” mean to you?**

This mandate is a sacred trust because God invites us to represent His style of rule in our world. Simultaneously, it is a sacred prohibition, asking those who rule to do so for others instead of themselves. **Why is it so difficult for leaders to live up to these sacred expectations?**

For many of us, we were taught that the main problem for humanity is that we are sinful and need to be saved for eternity by accepting Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. **How have you been shaped by this perspective? Has this formula ever left you searching for more?**

While the above is absolutely true, we also recognize that men and women are not fulfilling their purpose for this world by ruling in God's image. When you think about the stories of Scripture, they lead us through example after example of the wrong leaders leading for the wrong reasons.

But then King Jesus comes and shows us how to rule like God. He shows us how to reverse the curse and invites us to be a part of doing so.

**REFLECTION:** **Can you think of a situation in which you wish you could respond differently in order to rule like Jesus?**

**APPLICATION:**

**Read Matthew 5:3-10, 19.** These kingdom values are the guidelines for ruling in God's image and help us to evaluate our mode of rule. **When do you find yourself serving yourself at the expense of others?**

**When is your heart resistant to God's invitation to embrace what is contrary to our world's definition of rule?**