

# SOM WEEK 3 OVERVIEW

## Homework

- Bible Readings: Mark 11-16
- Book Readings: *Living Water* by Chuck Smith (Chapter 1-6, Pg 1-92)

## Sermon Highlights: Characteristics of a Servant

- Humility
- Love
- Faithfulness

Note Several Common Disqualifications:

- Pride. 1st Sin..Lucifer. Went from serving to rebellion.
- Hate/Anger
- Inconsistency
- Sin. Sexual Sin, Misuse of money, Excessive alcohol/drug use..anything that makes us not sober/clear minded.

These disqualifications are just examples. The more “visible” the ministry-the tighter/more strict we need to be with ourselves. Even how we dress may need to be altered in some cases when we are serving in a more visible capacity.

However, focusing today on the characteristics. These are internal changes. When this internal character is sought after..it tends to automatically change the external things that people seem to focus on so much.

## Humility:

*Mark 9: 33-37*

Who is the greatest? This is a very encouraging and hope filled passage.

Because (Using Peter as example) We see current state of disciples..later we can read Peter’s changed heart and character in scripture.

Later:

*1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for: God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

How do I clothe myself with humility?

First, recognize you are prideful. Jesus took the time to point out the issue in Mark 9. Often we don’t even realize our pride. Examine ourselves periodically. Identify insecurities. It might seem odd to connect insecurity with pride, but something I’ve noticed (in my own life):

We all have insecurities.. because of our defensive nature..those same insecurities usually give birth to pride. We typically overcompensate and pride is the result.

Repent. time in prayer and regular bible reading. So very easy..you could say. But...a vast majority of people don't do this and grow to be very prideful people as time goes by.

A servant is humble. Remains low. Wash them feet.

### **Love:**

*Mark 9:36-37* -Taken him in His arms.

2 weeks ago Bobby focused specifically on love. The love of God constrains me...

So I'm just going to focus on one aspect of this very important characteristic.

- When you love the people you're serving...it changes everything.

But..... When you tolerate or merely accept, deal with, try to work with, try to help, try to simply encourage...these are all inferior ways to serve and will always be inferior in effectiveness..basically a weak ministry. Especially in comparison to ministry propelled by love.

An excellent example is the love of a parent.

Parenting: On the surface...who in their right mind would sign up for a 24/7 job (168 hrs), no pay (in fact, you pay), insomnia, and just some of the grosses jobs (exploded diapers).

But despite all of that...the absolute greatest joy and excitement to be a mother or a father. The joy I remember experiencing driving home from work and finally walking thru that front door...and there is my baby girl..picking her up in my arms..seeing her little fingers wrap around mine.

You love that child so much all the endless work seems a whole lot easier. There is a joy about it. A passion. An endless source of energy powered by love.

We need to love the people we serve.

Back to Mark 9. Jesus has this child in His arms....someone they probably didn't really care about, or think was really that important..thats someone else's kid..i don't even know that kid..where'd you find that kid Jesus.

Insignificant is what they proly thought. Receive him and you are receiving me.

We are half way decent at loving our own kids..now we have to learn to love His kids. Receive them. Doesn't come as natural.

First, recognize your unloving. Jesus took the time to point out this kid in Mark 9 (while they were focused on themselves). We need to be real with ourselves and recognize when our hearts are cold toward people and the people we are called to serve.

Repent. time in prayer and regular bible reading.

I know it's repetitive...but it is really what changes our character and puts us in the presence of Jesus...spending actual time with Jesus.

Unfortunately many people skip the recognize & repent part and then just pray n read.....they experience very slow growth with minimal change.

So keeping with our Peter example:

*1 Peter 4: 8 And above all things have servant love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.*

### **Faithfulness:**

*Mark 10:35-45*

This "greatness" issue comes up again. Who is number one and two.

*VS 38,39 Can you drink the cup and handle the baptism?*

It's going to be tough and rough. There will be times you don't want to get out of bed.

Lord, can you get someone else.

Lord, these people are driving me crazy!

Lord, I have my own issues right now.

Lord, this hurts. People are coming against me..I've done nothing to them.

Lord, I don't know what to do.

These may become familiar prayers. Yet, we consistently must serve our King.

Consistency. Remain. When everyone else quits or moves on... Remain. Show up.

One day every one of us in this room will be having our last day on earth.

And in the rear view...none of us will wish we had done less for Jesus. We always have to keep the end in mind, especially when the present is hard.

*1 Peter 5: 8-11 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

**Reflection Questions**

- Do I show up and serve even when it is not easy?
- How can I be more consistent in what God has called me to do?
- Do I serve people because I love them or because I have to?
- Does my tone and attitude reflect the love of Jesus?