



PURPOSE

CONVERSATION #3: WITHOUT EXPECTATION

ICEBREAKER: TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Think about a time you agreed to something - no big deal, seemed simple enough - and then halfway through you realized: *"Oh... this is NOT what I thought this was."* Maybe it took way longer than expected. Maybe it got more complicated. Maybe you found yourself wondering how you ended up here.

- What did you think you "signed up for" and what really happened?
- Knowing what you know now ... would you still have said yes?

STUDY: NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Most of us don't walk into situations thinking, *"I'm only doing this if I get something back."* That's not how it usually works. We say yes because it seems right. Helpful. Reasonable. But somewhere along the way, a quiet expectation sneaks in. We might not be looking for payment - but we are often looking for *something*: a little appreciation, a sign it mattered, proof it was worth the effort, or some kind of response that tells us we made the right call.

Even the disciples - people who had left everything to follow Jesus - wrestled with this. They were all in, fully committed, and still found themselves wondering how faithfulness would pay off. They expected loyalty to lead to recognition, sacrifice to lead to status, and obedience to lead to predictable outcomes. And honestly, we ask the same kinds of questions: *Do they notice this? Is this worth it? Why isn't this paying off yet? Why hasn't God responded the way I thought He would?*

What we're going to explore today is how growth happens when serving stops being a transaction - and starts becoming an act of trust. Not doing the right thing to control the result, but doing it because it's right - no strings attached.

READ MARK 10:35-45

In this passage, two of Jesus' closest disciples, James and John, come to Him with a bold request. They ask for the best seats of honor when Jesus comes into His glory, revealing that - even though they've left everything to follow Him - they're still thinking in terms of position, recognition, and payoff.

The other disciples quickly become frustrated, not because they think the request is wrong, but because they want the same kind of reward. Jesus uses this moment to gently interrupt their assumptions and redefine greatness altogether.

He explains that in God's kingdom, influence doesn't come from being elevated above others, but from serving them - and He points to His own life as the example: He didn't come to be served, but to serve, even at great personal cost.

- When you read this conversation, where do you see yourself most easily in the story?
- What kind of outcome or recognition do you tend to hope for when you show up, help, or stay faithful?
- How do you usually react when effort doesn't lead to the result you expected?
- What could change if you measured faithfulness by obedience instead of outcome?

ACTIVITY: SCRIPTURE SUMMARY

Look up the scriptures below, read them as a group, and summarize what they say about serving in the Kingdom of God.

Luke 17:7-10	
Colossians 3:23-24	
Matthew 6:1-4	
Galatians 6:9	
Hebrews 11:6	
Ecclesiastes 11:1	
1 Corinthians 15:58	

CHALLENGE: OBEDIENCE OVER OUTCOME

This week, choose one simple act of service and do it without attaching any expectations. Don't mention it, don't track the result, don't wait for feedback, and don't evaluate how it made you feel. Serve quietly - whether that means helping anonymously, showing up without recognition, or praying for someone without telling them. Each day, ask yourself: *If nothing comes back to me, would this still be worth doing?* This challenge helps train your faith to obey without conditions and grow beyond relying on recognition, results, or emotional payoff.