

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Philippians 2:3

1. There are some people that just seem like bad apples who bring rottenness and trouble wherever they go. How can I look at those people as better than me?

- ✓ Please read Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:8-9
 - What condition are all of us in without the grace of God?
 - What does John say about thinking that we're good compared to other people?

- ✓ Please read the story in Luke's gospel, 19:1-10
 - What was causing the people to grumble in this story?
 - This man was considered the bottom of society by his peers. How did he respond to the grace shown Him by Jesus?
 - Are there people in your path who have been written off or rejected that would find being shown the grace of God through you amazing? Why would that speak louder than just telling them they're acting or living wrong?

2. There is a saying about "Looking out for #1," and isn't it true that if I don't look out for myself the world is going to take advantage of me or leave me behind?

- ✓ Please read 1 Samuel 16:6-13, the story of the prophet Samuel going to the house of Jesse to find the new king chosen by God for Israel.
 - What did God tell Samuel about man's perspective on who's "#1" compared to His perspective on who receives His favor and blessing?
 - Was David busy trying to establish himself as more successful or praiseworthy than his brothers?

- ✓ Read a little further in this story of David, 1 Samuel 17:17-28
 - Even though David has already been chosen over his brothers and anointed by the Lord, what do we find him doing in this passage?
 - How did David resemble the character of Christ as described in Philippians 2:5-9? Realize this is what leads up to his great victory over the giant, Goliath.

- ✓ Also read Luke 16:19-25
 - In this story, what happens to the man that the world would see as being on top?
 - What perspective is Jesus trying to give his listeners about striving to be better than others, or regarding yourself that way?
 - How much of your energy is spent trying to win people's approval? Does a story like this make you re-think what you worry about and where you put your energy?

At the end of one of His parables in Luke 14 Jesus says, "For everyone who exalts Himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." This starts with acknowledging our own sin and need for God's grace. We can't ever just be good enough to earn our way into God's kingdom, but when we confess our sin and need for Him, God can do the work of transforming us into a reflection of Jesus. Even more shocking to the world is that a Christian can count on God to reward us rightly, and we don't need to try to one-up each other and have people think we're the best at things to have self-worth. Now that is truth that can give us rest!

Week 4: Downward Mobility (cont.)



Icebreaker: ‘Pride goeth before a fall’. Share a time when that happened to you.

The Big Idea: Read the last paragraph of the devotional guide for week 4 starting with, “At the end” and ending with “that truth can give us rest”.

- 1) Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13. What does this tell us about God's perspective on who receives His favor and blessing?
- 2) Read on to 1 Samuel 17:17-28. David had been anointed by God's prophet Samuel yet what do we find him doing for others? How is this consistent with what Christ's teaching will be about servant leadership?
- 3) How have you ever anticipated facing a “Goliath” (person, event, difficult circumstance) that brought you closer to God and helped you rely on Him and less on yourself? Share about it.
- 4) Read Luke 16:19-25. In this story what happens to the man that the world would see as being on top? What is Jesus trying to teach His listeners about status or arrogance?

Think of one person in your life who the world would see as “on top” but needs Christ in their life. How can you build “presence” in their life in such a way that when the going gets rough for them (and it will) they will be open to your friendship and council? Pray for each other to be intentional in reaching out and building “presence”.