

UNSTUCK Self

The Context:

The wrong response:
Luke 18:18-30

The wrong focus:
Luke 18:31-34

A perfect example:
Luke 18:35-19:7

The right response:
Luke 19:8-10

The right focus:
Luke 19:11-27

Jesus

Others

You

How To Keep Things In The Right Perspective:

Romans 12:1-2 Galatians 2:20

▶ Our mindset has to switch from **“owner”** to **“manager.”**

▶ Do I see God as a:
“Taker & Keeper” or a **“Giver & Receiver.”**

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 25, 2015

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Can you think of a time when someone served you in a profound way, doing something for you that you absolutely did not want to do? How did that make you feel?

2. How we live and make decisions day-to-day can make or break our ability to get unstuck on "ourselves" and serve others. Which of the statements below can most easily become a roadblock for you when it comes to serving others?

- Moving too fast to notice
- Packing too much into my schedule
- Trying to respond to every need
- Putting off getting started
- Unwillingness to flex my schedule and/or leisure time

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Opportunities to serve and impact others in small but significant ways occur randomly around us everyday. It's been said that our impact on others is usually not one single act, but many acts of service piled together. As you read the story of the Good Samaritan and his random opportunity to serve in Luke 10:30-36, make a list of all the ways he served the man who was robbed.

Luke 10:30-36

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" *[NIV]*

In the list you wrote above, which comes easiest to you? Which one is the most challenging?

2. None of us want to be categorized as someone who is too self-absorbed to serve others or has failed to fulfill their call to make a difference. Yet all of us can, at times, lack the motivation to get involved or we lack the awareness that what we can do really makes a difference. How might the following verses motivate us to stay in the game and play our role?

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. [NIV]

Ephesians 6:7-8

⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. [NIV]

Matthew 25:37-40

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' [NIV]

2 Thessalonians 3:6

Warning Against Idleness

⁶ In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. [NIV]

Which verse above motivates you the most to serve?

3. Fortunately, the same Spirit that God gave the disciples is also available to all of us who are genuine followers of Jesus. That means we have a supernatural resource to help us serve and make changes that we never thought possible. Read the following passages and identify the Spirit's role in empowering us for ministry.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." [NIV]

John 14:26

²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. [NIV]

John 15:4-5

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [NIV]

Can you think of any reasons why God is so concerned about people relying on his power for service and ministry and not just their own power?

Can you think of any examples in your own life that have been helpful in reminding you of your need to rely on God's power?

TAKING IT HOME

This week we heard a clear call that to get unstuck from ourselves is to go out and serve. Take a couple of minutes to talk to God and ask him how he would like you to serve. Is he nudging you in any specific direction in the categories below? Is there anywhere you would like to increase your reputation of "being a servant"?

At home?

At work?

Trying a new role of service in the church, community or other?

Prayer Requests:

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Be sure to check out our Community Service website to see how you can get involved and serve locally. Examples include serving a meal, tending to a garden, donating baby supplies, or serving at a Christmas related event. For a complete list of available projects, visit: northcoastcommunityservice.org