

# EVERYTHING

## THE GOSPEL CHANGES

**1** Youth Ministry

April 13, 2014

### Lesson:

This week, we continued our series called “The Gospel Changes Everything” talking about serving like Jesus.

We began by reviewing what the Gospel was and how it is for **ALL** people with the only requirement of admitting we are sinners in need of a Savior. We also reviewed how the Gospel changes us so that we are compelled to love others as Jesus loved us. We discussed how this was all something very different than how the Disciples were used to living in the Jewish culture.

We started with a discussion about how some people’s lives have been changed by shows such as ‘American Idol’. We talked about how nobody knew who Carrie Underwood was before she won and now she is a household name and is very successful. We talked about how our culture celebrates being good at something or being popular or powerful but we don’t normally celebrate those who serve others.

We looked at how when our lives are changed by the Gospel through a saving relationship with Christ, our lives begin to look more and more like Christ’s life. We model the things he modeled for us and in this way we show the world the power of the Gospel.

We looked at **Matthew 25:31-46** where Jesus was telling his Disciples a parable about his future return to Earth we watched a short clip from the movie ‘Godspell’ where they acted out the parable from **Matthew 25:31-46**. We noted that Jesus seemed to be saying that we are blessed and get to heaven by serving the least of our brothers and sisters (feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, looking after the sick, etc) and those who don’t serve do not get to heaven. This seemed to go against being saved by grace and not by our works as it says in **Ephesians 2:8-9**.

We learned that what Jesus was actually saying is that those whose lives have been transformed by the Gospel will naturally lead lives where their actions reflect their transformation to live more like Christ and will do these things not to be saved but because they are saved. We said that we needed to be careful to not just create a checklist of rules or do’s and don’t’s for following Jesus but rather show compassion for others because of our love for them by our lives being changed by the Gospel.

We then looked at **Mark 10:35-45** where James and John were telling Jesus that they wanted to be on his right and on his left when he is crowned king. They wanted to be the 1st & 2nd most important people in the kingdom of Jesus. We talked about how they clearly did not understand what it meant and were probably more interested in being important with great wealth and everything that normally comes with an Earthly kingdom. We talked about how Jesus’ teachings were very different from what the Disciples were used to. Then the other Disciples get angry because they too want to be the most important in the kingdom of Jesus.

We said that it doesn’t seem like much has changed in the world over the past 2000 years. People still wish to be important and powerful for their own benefit. But, Jesus told his Disciples that they would “not be the same”. He told them that whoever wants to become great must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be a slave to all. We talked about how this is another part of being changed by the Gospel. Instead of trying to be important or powerful, we must first be great at serving others. We also learned that the best way to be great at serving others is to simply serve others. We said that we serve others because even Jesus did not come to be served but to serve. Serving as Jesus served is part of being changed by the Gospel.

We said that it’s important to remember that Jesus was not talking about serving others in order to be a good Christian, he was saying that as a Christian we serve others out of our love for others because of our life changing relationship with Christ.

We also said that it’s even more important to remember that we are NOT saved by our actions. We are saved by grace and by what Jesus did for us on the cross. This IS the Gospel message. But, our actions are the fruit of our salvation. The Gospel transforms us to be more like Christ and our actions reflect our transformation and show the power of the Gospel.

We then finished up discussing different ways that some of us currently serve in the Church as well as in our community and we talked about what it was like to serve. We also discussed some possible ways that we can serve in the future.