

So You Want To Be the Greatest?

Fast Track to Greatness

Jan 6, 2019

Ted

1. How can we maintain the true spirit of giving throughout the new year? Do we tend to forget this important concept as we start into January and fall back into living like we did last January? Are there examples you might want to share? (think of finances, time utilization, jobs, family responsibilities) The example of “belly fat” was used (or good health, physical fitness). Does this apply to any of us?
2. Most importantly, what are our goals for this year? Do we tend to show our outer image to the world around us; or do we strive to show our heart-of-hearts to the Savior whose birth we just celebrated? So, what is the difference in “self improvement” from the perspective of those of faith vs the world? Are we different? (Answer: believers should show service to the world around us with our inner, heart-of-hearts, focused on Him through the power of the Holy Spirit.)
3. Consider Matthew 23: 11-12. How are we tempted to exalt self? The result is, in the end, we are humbled. Exalting Him by serving will lead to ultimate praise from Him in glory. Romans 8:16-17 says we are joint heirs...his brothers and sisters. This is greater than any title we can achieve in this life. (Consider asking: Anyone seeking new titles this year? Why? What is your true motive? Titles can facilitate service or lead to self-righteous pride.)
4. Ted asked these penetrating questions: (1) How do you react when you do the work and others get the credit? (2) When someone takes something from you but they do not pay you back, how do you react? How can you react in ways which will help the one who offended you? (3) Do you have excessively needy friends? Do you get negative, angry, and cynical when they make demands on you? How can you react to them in ways which glorify Christ rather than detracting from your testimony?
5. What do you expect when you serve? (thanks, pats on the back, smiles, respect, attention from leadership and others?) Ted made the point that we need a radical change in service...expect nothing in return!! Ted gave the formula in Luke 6:27-28 – love, do good, bless, pray. The model is Christ (consider closing the discussion by reading Matthew 20: 25-28)
6. Radical service causes others to react. Look at John Ch 13. Why did Peter react so forcefully to Jesus washing his dirtiest part (the feet)? (hurt pride, false humility, embarrassment?) See v 8. If Christ does not wash every part of us, we have no part with Him. We model this behavior to the world around us in service...for their benefit and their hope of salvation.