

TIME OF OUR LIVES

Part 5: TAKE THE LOW PLACE

Introduction

Selfishness is not an attractive quality in others, but it's a quality that comes naturally to all of us. Why battle it? And if you don't look out for yourself, who will? Jesus provides a radically different perspective and a completely different way to find what you're really looking for.

Bottom Line

When you give away your life, you will find your life.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had to work with a selfish person who expected to be served all the time? How did his/her selfishness impact your outlook?
2. What is it about selfish people that bothers you most?
3. If selfish people bother us, why do you think so many people are naturally self-focused and self-interested?
4. Read Matthew 16:24-27 (NLT) below:

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

- a. What did Jesus say we must do if we want to be His follower?
 - b. Why reason did Jesus give for saying that (see v.25)?
 - c. Why do you think Jesus said any attempt to fulfil your own selfish needs would be futile?
5. How would your life (work, marriage, parenting, church) be different if you decided to take the low place, and give your life away by serving Christ and others?

Moving Forward

Ask yourself: Am I serving others or do I expect to be served? Every time you feel a selfish impulse, surrender it to God with a quick prayer and ask him how you can serve him or serve him by serving another person. In addition to this, you may want to sign up to serve in a cause that's bigger than yourself by serving through The Rocks.

Changing Your Mind

"If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

Matthew 16: 25 NLT