



Notes | October 6, 2024

As it is in Heaven: Kingdom Culture & Sacrificial Serving

In the Old Testament, God closely walked alongside his people, through their trials and triumphs. In the New Testament, He went deeper and became one of us, embodying love and sacrifice in the person of Jesus. Our calling is to follow Jesus' example: we are to sacrificially serve others, even those who we may not agree with. Why? Because Jesus did this for us. While we were still sinners—lost in our brokenness—Jesus laid down His life to bring us back to the Father. Now we are called to extend that same grace and service to everyone around us, reflecting the incredible love we have received.

Key Scripture | Mark 10: 42-45

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Related Scriptures

Romans 5:8, II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 5:16, Luke 5:17-20, Luke 5:24-26

Icebreaker:

Q: Have you ever been on the receiving end of sacrificial service? What happened? How did it make you feel?



Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. Culture has shifted

Q: Name one way you have seen culture shift in recent years. What examples have you seen of the world “setting up it’s own religion”?

Q: In what ways does this shift affect our conversations and relationships with those who may not share our beliefs?

Q: What are some strategies we can use to engage in meaningful conversation while remaining true to our beliefs?

II. We have three options for influence.

Q: Considering the three options presented for how the church can respond to the current cultural climate (fight back, shrink back, or earn back influence through sacrificial serving), which approach do you find yourself most often taking?

Q: Why do you think it’s important for us to respond by earning back influence through serving?

Q: Have you ever personally witnessed sacrificial serving influencing the way someone views God and church? Give an example.

III. Care, act, see, celebrate.

Q: In what ways can we cultivate a deeper sense of care for those around us? What practices can help us truly see the opportunities to serve in our daily lives?

Q: How can we encourage one another to care for the needs of others and take action, especially when it feels challenging?

Q: How does celebrating moments of transformation or healing in others help strengthen our faith and encourage a culture of service in our church?

Get Practical

Identify a specific need in your community or among your friends and commit to serving that need sacrificially this week. Whether it’s helping a neighbor with chores, volunteering at a local organization, or simply reaching out to “your one”, be intentional. Afterward, reflect on the experience and consider how it impacted both you and the person you served, celebrating the joy of making a difference together.