

## Let's Build The Church

### Lesson 1 Gratitude Should Be The Attitude Mark 10:35-45

1. When did an attitude of gratitude open a door for you that you had not expected?

#### **Mark 10:35-45 (NIV)**

<sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." <sup>36</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

<sup>37</sup> They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory."

<sup>38</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup> "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,

<sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared."

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. <sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> 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."

2. What do you think was the attitude that James and John approached Jesus with in presenting their request.

3. What attitude of James and John motivated the request itself?

4. Why does Jesus think they do not know what they are asking for?

5. Are there times in the church when we ask for things without knowing what we are asking for from God?

6. What's the difference between a person leading a group out of spirit of gratitude as contrasted with a person leading out of a sense of "I'm in charge here."

7. Jesus had chosen Peter, James and John as his inner circle. What would have been your attitude if you had been Peter and you overheard James and John leaving you out in this request?

8. What do you think would have been the result if Jesus had simply said, "that's a wonderful idea. I should have thought of it sooner."

9. How does Jesus indicate the way to choose leaders for leadership positions?

10. What is the cup that John and James are agreeing to drink? See Acts 12:1-3

11. How could "I'm in charge here" be a threat to building a great church?

12. Why do you think the other disciples are so angry with James and John? What attitude are they displaying?

13. What's the connection between serving as a servant and demonstrating an attitude of gratitude?

14. How do you think the disciples resolved this conflict in the group caused by the request of James and John?

15. Do you think most of the people come to church to serve or to be served? What's the difference in the amount of gratitude they supply?

16. How should we give our lives today as a ransom for the many? Why is gratitude necessary?

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### Life-Sharing Lesson 2 Choosing To Be The Right Kind Of A Member Romans 12:3-16

1. When was a time you were in a position that you did not fit in well?
2. Why is needed in order to fit well into a position?

#### **Romans 12:3-16 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

<sup>4</sup> Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

3. Why do we think more highly of ourselves in the church than we ought and how does it affect the life of the church?

4. Why do we want some functions in the church that God may not have gifted us to have?

5. How should you handle the situation when a person has done a solo in church, but is not gifted in singing, and the person asks you “how do you think I did?”

6. How should you handle the situation in which volunteers are requested to teach in the CE class one morning and the person who volunteers to go and lead the class is terrible with children?

7. Which of the gifts listed in verses 6 through 8 do you use most often in building up the church?

8. What's the difference between a person with the gift of giving and the person who is a tither?

9. When is our love in the church not sincere?

10. What are some practical ways for members to honor each other above themselves?

11. What kinds of things drain our spiritual fervor for the Lord?

12. How does a church become more intentional about practicing hospitality?

13. How do you feel about members who could pay their per capita, but choose not to do so?

14. When was the last time you made a conscious decision to seek out and get to know a person in the church who had a low position? ( This could be someone in the church who is a loner, someone who is very poor, someone who seems a little off mentally or socially, or someone who seems very discouraged.)

15. What would happen if we came to church each week asking God to use us to minister to someone, instead of simply coming to be ministered to?

16. Whose job is it to build a strong loving congregation?

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Life-Sharing Lesson 3 Wanting To Make A Difference 2 Timothy 2:1-7,  
Mark 12:41-44

1. When was a time when you wanted to make a difference in a place or for someone but it did not seem to work?

2. What image comes to your mind when you hear the words, "there's a Christian who is really making a difference."

**2 Timothy 2:1-7 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men and women who will also be qualified to teach others. <sup>3</sup> Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer. <sup>5</sup> Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

3. What do you think is meant by being strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus?

4. What happens to a church that is weak on grace?

5. What's the connection between making a difference and enduring hardship?

6. Why are we willing to endure more from those outside of the church than we are from those inside the church?

7. If we are called to be soldiers, who is the enemy especially within the church?

8. As soldiers of Jesus Christ, what are some of the civilian affairs we are tempted to get involved with?

9. How many rules does an athlete have to break to get him/her disqualified from the race? How many rules does a Christian get to break, before getting disqualified from receiving a crown?

10. How often do you think God rewards Christians with crowns for their actions of making a difference?

11. Why is following the commandments of God so important in making a difference for God?



12. Why do you think the Apostle Paul uses the image of a hardworking farmer as a model for us as Christians of what to expect?

**Mark 12:41-44 (NIV)**

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. <sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on."

11. In the above passage, were the rich people making a difference in Jesus' eyes? Why or why not?

12. What made the poor widow's offering so significant?

13. What does it cost to make a difference in the life of the church?

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Life-Sharing Lesson 4    Matthew 5:13-16    Choosing To Be A Change Agent

1. What can you think of that a small amount of it, can drastically change whatever it is that it touches?

2. When did the small act of another touch you in a very meaningful way?

**Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

3. What do you think Jesus means when he says that we are the salt of the earth?

4. How does a Christian lose his or her saltiness?

5. In order for salt to be effective, it has to come into contact with what needs to be changed? How can we as a church have our members become more engaged in contacting those outside the church?

6. How does the “salt of the world” find its way into the body of Christ?

6b. How do we engage “the world” without becoming “of the world?”

7. What are some of the purposes of light?

7.a Why are some of the places we associate with sin often lit very dimly?

8. Our culture has undergone a dramatic change over the way it views homosexuality. How does a Christian be light in this situation while holding to the biblical principles on sexuality?

9. Why would a city be built on a hill? Why would Jesus expect us to be like a city on a hill?

10. What are the ways we as Christians put our lights under a bowl, and why do we do it?

11. What should we expect to happen to us when we allow our lights to shine before others?

12. What good deeds should we do that are to be seen and what good deeds are we to do that are to be done in secret?

13. In what way can you be a greater change agent in the life of the church?

14. How does one maintain being a light for Jesus, without being accused of being a braggard or self righteous for Jesus?