

Double Blessing: More Blessed to Give than to Receive

Sunday, June 4, 2023

This week, Pastor Craig covered:

- Ephesus was a lot like southern California: major hub of success, modernization, and wealth.
- Ephesians were focused on getting, getting, getting. Paul says it is more blessed to give than to receive.
- Three reasons why it's better to give than to receive:
 1. Engages in communal faith rather than a privatized faith.
 2. Imitates Christ
 3. It's an act of worship

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Have you heard the saying, "you are what you eat" or "you are whom you hang out with"? Do you believe these sayings are true?

SERMON NOTES REVIEW

Looking back at your sermon notes from this weekend's teaching, was there anything said that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

In Matthew 6:24 Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

- 1.) What does "enslaved to money" mean?
- 2.) What cultural influences entice you to be "enslaved to money"?

Mark 10:45 says, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many."

- 3.) What are some ways that Jesus served mankind while on Earth? How can we imitate Christ by serving others?
- 4.) Read Romans 12:1-2 aloud together. Share with your group any instances where you saw God's plan in your life as good, pleasing, and perfect.

TAKING IT HOME

Acts 20:35 says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

1. Share with your group an occasion in which this verse was true in your life.
2. How might God want to use your giving to bless those around you?

PRAYER TIME

Close your group in prayer. Thank God for giving us the instruction to give. Pray for guidance and direction on areas in our lives where we can be more giving.

ACTION STEPS

This week, spend time meditating on Jesus' words in Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters" and ask Him to search your heart and reveal areas in your life where you can better serve Him as your one and only master.