

Beyond The Wall Part Two

Choosing Commitment Over Comfort

Introduction

Read: Luke 18:18-23

1. Walls exist for various reasons: to keep something in, to keep something out and to protect or hide something.
2. Many times, we keep to ourselves things that are meant to be shared to others for their good.
3. The greatest obstacle holding us back from reaching beyond the wall to bless others is our unwillingness to leave our comfort zone.
4. Sharing the good things God has given us to others requires us to sacrifice, put in effort and be committed to God's cause.
5. In today's lesson, we will read the story of the rich, religious leader and discuss how we can be committed to serving God and the people around us.

I. Find Out What God Wants For Us

- A. Just like how the religious leader questioned Jesus, we can ask God what He wants us to do (v18).**
- B. Study the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) to understand how Jesus wants us to live our lives.**
E.g. Sermon on the Mount, Parables from Jesus, etc.
- C. Pray and ask God for His purpose in this particular season of our lives.**
E.g. To reach specific friends in school, to focus on reaching our neighbourhood, etc.
- D. Open up your heart to God instead of refusing to allow God to speak.**

II. Be A Willing Sacrifice

- A. The religious leader was unable to step into the purpose God had for him because he was unwilling to step out of his comfort zone (v23).**
- B. Count all we have as belonging to God, and not to us!**

Discuss!

Connect Group Leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

- *What are some things that we "own" in life? I.e. resources or abilities.
E.g. Finances, possessions, time, skills, attention, focus, love, etc.*
- *In what ways do we sometimes choose to keep these things to ourselves?*

C. Offer our help to others when we are given the opportunity to.

D. Give or serve with thankfulness, without complaining (2 Corinthians 9:7)!

III. Walk In Jesus' Footsteps

A. We commit ourselves to live the way Christ lived by doing the things He did (v22).

B. Look at our lives in the same way that Jesus saw His own life.

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

- Luke 19:10

C. Keep in step with the Holy Spirit by choosing to obey Him.

E.g. Speak to our parents in the right tone instead of being rude, choosing to use kind words instead of insults, etc.

D. Continue on the path towards Christ even though times may get difficult (Read James 1:2-3).

Discuss!

Connect Group Leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

- *Why is it that we are sometimes unwillingly to surrender some parts of our lives to God?*

E.g. Uncertainty of what would happen to us, lack of faith in God's goodness, unwilling to step out of our comfort zone, etc.

- *What are some practical ways to walk in Jesus' footsteps?*

E.g. Praying for our sick friends, being a friend to those who are always marginalized, sharing the gospel to anyone we meet, etc.

Conclusion

1. The first step to serving God is to understand what He requires of us!
2. God wants us to be willing to sacrifice because He wants us to trust Him.
3. Our lives will be pleasing to God when we choose to adopt the lifestyle that Jesus had.

Prayer Points:

- a) Pray that everyone in the Connect Group will know what God wants to do in their lives.
- b) Pray that we will be willing sacrifices to serve God better.
- c) Pray that we will choose to live like Jesus did and be a blessing to those around us.

**Give opportunities for visitors to receive Christ and members to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.*