

The Beauty of Transformation

February 17, 2019 Shannon Williamson

Transformation is a _____ street. Matthew 25:33-40

Christ meets me when I serve others.

The first lesson is ______. Matthew 18:1-5

- Humility is a conversion experience.
- Places of humility are places where we receive grace. James 4:6

Learning to ______.

- Incarnation shows that Christ came first to receive.
- God has to deal with the pride that's rooted in going out to serve the poor and not planning on learning and receiving anything valuable from them.

Learning to _____.

- Admitting spiritual blindness is the only way to be healed. John 9:39-41
 - The key to loving the poor and broken is to own your own poverty and brokenness.
- Seeing with Christ's eyes. Luke 7:39-40, 44-46
 - He will use the poor to teach me.
- Who needs transformation, the man in the ditch or the priest? Luke 10:31-34
 - The degree that the priest is unwilling to see, feel compassion and stop is the degree of transformation he still needs.
 - The priest and Levite looked but they didn't truly see. Pride blocks our sight.
 - Passing the man in the ditch is passing his _____ to grow in love and connect with Christ.
- Being willing to see their burdens and afflictions
 - Exodus 2:11; Exodus 3:7; Exodus 4:31

Awakening to a new ______: Matthew 20, The Parable of the Laborers

- Who gets the better deal? It's a difference of perspective!
- Are you working with Him or are you working for Him?
- A servant works for the master; a son works with his father!
- The shift is in where you put your value.
- Humility opens the way to a new perspective.



Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

Theme: Who really is "Needy?"

Warm Up: Share a past experience when you had the opportunity to serve others, such as a mission trip or group project. What impact did it make on those you served and yourself?

Sermon Response: What was most impactful from Shannon's message last Sunday for you?

Read Together: Luke 10:25-37

Discuss:

- What do you sense was the motivation of the religious leader by his initial question to Jesus in verse 25?
- Why did Jesus ask the lawyer a question in response? Why is it more effective when someone does the same to us?
- How did this religious lawyer justify himself as Luke points out in verse 29? How can we do the same finding a loophole out of loving?
- Why does Jesus choose this story and the types of characters it contains in response to the question, "Who is my neighbor"?
- What was so significant about Jesus using a Samaritan in this story?
- As he helped this needy man, how do you think the Samaritan himself was transformed?
- What do you think the reaction was of the religious experts who heard it?
- How does Jesus expose the religious leaders' poverty of spirit, and ours as well?
- Who do you know that is in the "ditches" of life right now that needs rescuing?
- What do you find difficult or challenging about helping and loving them?
- If you are feeling you're the one in the ditch, how can we pray for you as a group?

<u>Prayer</u>: Pray over any shared needs but also share updates about what God is doing in your group.