

Small Group/Sermon Notes for High Ways Part 7: Good and Faithful Servant

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- Key Scripture **Isaiah 55:6-9**
 - God's ways are higher than our ways x2:
 - First, God's ways can be hard to understand sometimes.
 - Second, God's ways are much much better than our ways.
- **This week: Being a Good and Faithful Servant.**
- This series we've been trying to go from servant to friend. But we have to be a good servant first!
 - I'm not talking about works vs grace for salvation.
 - Rather, how do saved people live as good and faithful servants. What does that look like?
- Parable of the talents. **Matthew 25:14-30.**
 - Being entrusted with the things of God brings responsibility.
 - There is great joy for both the Lord and for the good and faithful servant!
 - Worthless servant turns out to be not so good.
 - Another harsh one: **Luke 17:1-10.**
 - Serve without being thanked ever? What do you think of that?
 - What is service in this example?
 - Last harsh example: Do we need to be prepared to die for Christ if necessary?
 - Of course. Look at the Apostles, martyrs, and **Revelation 2:8-11.**
- Happily for us, the situation does not usually call for us to die for our faith.
- That's what I want to focus on now. How do we live a "normal" life for Christ?
 - This can actually be difficult and confusing. (Peter and Malchus example.)
 - How do we know we are doing it right? How do we bear much fruit? How can we stay fulfilled while we are serving?
- Let's look at some important things relating to serving the Lord in this life.
- Fruitful labor brings joy, but fruitless labor brings discouragement.
 - Have you noticed this? But what about **1 Corinthians 15:58**?
 - Compare that with **1 Corinthians 11:17**!
 - This is written in the same book to the same church!!! Thoughts?
- You've got to get your life under control before you can help others effectively.
 - Helping others does bring healing to you, but you have to be able to actually help others or it will get messed up.
 - Abundant life brings an overflow of time, money, energy, and wisdom!
 - Get you some of that! It isn't selfish, it is being a good servant.
- Serving Jesus through church ministry vs serving the church.
 - If you see yourself as serving the church only, then you will get a bad attitude.
- Many hands make light work, but burnout is rampant.
 - Some are called to vocational ministry. Like me.
 - Don't hang us out to dry. We are interdependent.
 - **Matthew 11:28-30** is true if we all carry our cross.
- Recap. A good and faithful servant:
 - Serves out of the overflow that they have received from God.
 - Serves "in the Lord" avoiding sideways energy or counterproductive activity.
 - Serves the Lord through the church and in other ways as well.
 - Stays faithful knowing that we are all interdependent.
 - As more and more people do this the group has overflow from God!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!