

OUT OF SELFISHNESS

In this lesson you will learn that how selfishness is a primary reason that we are disabled in reaching our generation. We will see the root of selfishness and how to become selfless.

- I. Selfishness is the dominant trait that will characterize the end times.
 - A. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God having a form of godliness but denying its power...*
 - B. Lovers of themselves means self-focused, self-centered, and self-serving. We tend to think about the big “I,” and get consumed with our own desires.
- II. Signs of selfishness in the church.
 - A. Coming to church with an attitude of, “What is in it for me? What can I get out of the service?”
 - B. Not asking how we can be of value and service, we become takers and not givers.
 - C. When a person is not involved, he can become critical of others in the church and maybe leave to find a different church that will serve him.
- III. What Jesus said about giving of yourself
 - A. Acts 20:35 – *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*
 - B. Luke 12:48 – *For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required...*
 - C. Matthew 10:8 – *Freely you have received, freely give.*
 - D. Luke 9:23-24 – *If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*
 - E. Illustration – The Sea of Galilee has water that flows in and out – a person who both receives and gives is like the Sea of Galilee. The Dead Sea has water only flowing into it – a person who only takes in and doesn’t give out is like the Dead Sea.
- IV. Other scriptures on being a giver.
 - A. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 – *As you have been comforted then comfort others.*
 - B. Proverbs 11:24 – *As you scatter you will increase more, but if you withhold it leads to poverty.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some practical ways we can move from selfishness to selflessness?
- What are ways we can live out Acts 20:35 – *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*
- What area of ministry or serving are you presently involved in or you would like to be involved in?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Pray that roots of selfishness be removed from your life this week. Practice giving and serving this week! Remember, love is not love until you give it away.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE: Acts 20:35 – *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*