



Saved To Serve Week 5 ~ Care for the Needs of One Another (cont'd)

Overview

Last Week

1st Qtr = Why ought we to Love/Care for One Another

2nd Qtr = How do we Love/Care for One Another

Halftime

This Week

3rd Qtr=Impediments to Loving/Caring for One Another AND How to Overcome Them

4th Qtr=Practical Examples

3rd Qtr

Impediments to Loving/Caring for One Another AND How to Overcome Them

1. Not Knowing & Not Being Known
 - a. "Everyone seems to be doing just fine"
 - b. "I need help, but don't know who to ask"
2. The Person Being Served
 - a. "No, I can handle it myself"
 - b. "I don't need to ask for help"
 - c. "If I need help, I will ask for it"
3. Fear
 - a. "I am unable to help"
 - b. "I can't make a difference"
 - c. "I might offend someone and not be liked"
4. Busyness
 - a. "I'm too busy"
 - b. "I'm already overcommitted"
 - c. "This is a really busy week for me"
5. Keeping Score
 - a. "I keep helping, but nothing changes"
 - b. "I seem to always be the one helping, never getting helped"
 - c. "They're going to owe me"
6. Not Knowing/Using your Spiritual Gift(s)
 - a. "I don't enjoy serving"
 - b. "I want to be a blessing, but not sure how"
7. High Expectations of One Another
 - a. "They shouldn't be needing my help"
 - b. "I can't believe they are struggling"
 - c. "Can't they do this themselves"
8. Assuming everything is fine
 - a. "It's not that big of a deal"
 - b. "It will all work out fine"
 - c. "It would be awkward if I say something"

Discussion Questions

1. How have you seen/experienced each of the impediments we discuss? Do you think some are not actually impediments? Of the list mentioned, which one would you say is the most detrimental to the Church? Which one is the hardest to overcome for you?
2. Is it loving/caring to love/care for someone when the loving/caring is detrimental?
3. How do we keep ourselves from being detrimental with our service to each other

4th Qtr

Practical Examples

1. "Its All Going to be OK"

a. Jimmy John's friend Wendy has been distant lately, with sporadic attendance to church, and not being as responsive as normal to texts and calls. Another friend of both of you asks you if you had noticed anything going on with Wendy, which is more indication that something is up. You feel like you may be able to do something to help, but you don't know what. You decide to not take action for a few reasons. (1)You are not sure what to do. (2)You feel like things will work out and will be back to normal before long, so why bring it up. (3)You are already very busy with children, activities, work schedule, etc. (4)You assume someone else will notice and take care of it, assuming whoever it is will be more qualified to help, and will have more time to help.

b. Questions

- i. What is Jimmy John doing right? What is Jimmy John doing wrong?
- ii. Instead of no action, what is a good first step for Jimmy John to address Wendy's needs? What is a truth(from the Bible) that Jimmy John could be reminded of to help them navigate making the right decision? Look up the verse and read it aloud to the group.

2. "I am already overcommitted"

a. Becky has a number of commitments that keep her hopping. She babysits for a friend pro bono, works part time, is part of a women's bible study, a small group, is on league softball team, and finds the time to have a social life as well. She enjoys everything she does but finds herself weary from it all. On top of that, Heather, a friend from church who is plugged in, has asked if they can meet weekly to discuss how to navigate marital difficulties. Becky would love to help her, but struggles with the thought of adding one more thing. She also considers that Heather could just find someone else to meet with. She decides against committing, and tells her she is already overcommitted. She does recommend some books she could read though.

b. Questions

- i. Is there a right or wrong answer to Becky's decision? How could Becky have handled it differently so that Heather was served better?
- ii. Have you been in Becky's shoes before? What did you do? How would you have handled it differently?
- iii. Have you been in Heather's shoes before? What did you do? How would you have handled it differently?