

“We Are Unworthy Servants”

Sermon Notes

- **The Scriptures teach us very little about self-esteem but they do have much to say about Christ-esteem**

**This baptism Sunday, let us remember and never forget that...*

1. We are _____ (vv.7-10)

2. Christ is an _____ (Luke 12:37; Mark 10:45; Matthew 25:21, 23; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Deuteronomy 28:47-48; Psalm 32:11; Psalm 37:4; 67:4; 100:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Philippians 4:4)

Next Week: Luke 17:11-19 - “Where Are the Nine?”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the week of August 19th – 25th

Getting Started

1. What term do you typically use to refer to yourself as a follower of Jesus Christ (“Christian”, “believer”, “Christ-follower”, “Evangelical”, “conservative Protestant”, etc.)? Though you may not think about it much, why do you use the descriptor(s) that you do? What do they communicate to others about your convictions?

Digging Deeper

2. Did you know that the term “Christian” is only found three times in the New Testament (Acts 11:26; 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16)? Moreover, were you aware that the most common designation that 1st century believers used to describe themselves was “slave” (bond-servant) of Christ (Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 7:22; Galatians 1:10; Ephesians 6:6; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 4:12; Titus 1:1; James 1:1; 1 Peter 2:16; 2 Peter 1:1 and Revelation 1:1)? Do you ever refer to yourself as a slave of Christ? If so, what sort of reaction do you get from other people? If not, why not?

Open Your Bible to Luke 17:7-10...

3. Read through Luke 17:7-10 as a group. Most English translations (including the ESV) opt to translate the Greek word for “slave” as “servant” or “bond-servant”. For a little background, run a YouTube search for “ESV Bible Translators Debate the Word 'Slave'”, watch the 4 minute video, and discuss it with your group.

4. In verses 7 and 9, Jesus asks two rhetorical questions. What are they? What does he expect the answer to be in each case?

5. Jesus instructs us as his followers to say at the end of our lives: “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty” (v.10). Similarly, world-renowned missionaries such as David Livingstone and Hudson Taylor came to the end of their lives and claimed: “I never made a sacrifice.” Why is this true, even for the most remarkable Christians who have ever lived?

6. Compare what Jesus says in Luke 17:7 with what he says in 12:37. Clearly, Jesus is not your typical master. What does this mean for us in the future? Is he serious?

7. Once again, compare what Jesus says in Luke 17:9 with what he says in Matthew 25:21 and 23. How does he (once more) turn the tables on our expectations? Spend some time dreaming together about what the words of Matthew 25:21 and 23 will sound like one day.

8. Though “duty” is the last word in our text (v.10), it's clearly not the last word on Christian discipleship in the Bible's broader context. Read through Deuteronomy 28:47-48; Psalm 32:11; Psalm 37:4; 67:4; 100:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7 and Philippians 4:4. Why is “duty” alone incomplete? What more does God call us to in light of these Scriptures? How does this make you feel?