

Series: When God Get's Personal with my Flaws

What Role Do Others Play?

Dr. Les Hughes

August 9, 2009

Scripture: Matthew 5:6-7,9

6. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

9. Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Group Session

Opening Question

Think of some ways other people have either positively or negatively affected your life. Share some of these with the group.

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Pastor Les started out by sharing what he referred to as "The Bottom Line" which was this: **"I must eagerly submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life."**

What keeps us from eagerly accepting any kind of change in our lives?

2. Righteousness involves "a constant pursuit of God." Share some ways you can tell a difference in life when you pursue God. How do you pursue him? What tips could you give someone else who is seeking to renew their walk with God?

3. Pastor Les said, "God wants me to evaluate all my relationships, and take appropriate action. " Assuming that means we need to change some relationships, what are the benefits of changing out some of our friends? How do we do this in a loving way? How do we maintain nurturing relationships with those who need Christ, but might be damaging to us if they are a close friend?

4. It has been said that people either affect or are affected by others. Which are you more like? Have we seriously ever considered that we can have great power to impact those around us in a positive way? Do you have any examples from your life?

5. Pastor Les shared four concrete promises one must make to truly forgive. Which of these is most difficult for you? Why?

Tips for Forgiveness

1. I will not dwell on this incident
2. I will not hold onto the incident and use it against you.
Col. 3:13 says that we should forgive others as God has forgiven us.
3. I will not talk about this incident to others
4. If possible, I won't allow this incident to stand between us or to hinder our personal relationship.
Romans 12:18 admonishes us to "live at peace with all people."

6. Also shared was seven keys to confession. Discuss the benefits of confession to relationships. Why is it difficult for us to confess something? How does our personality or previous home life affect that ability?

7 Keys of Confession

1. Address everyone involved
2. Avoid if, but and maybe
3. Admit specifically
4. Apologize
5. Accept the consequences
6. Alter your behavior
7. Ask for forgiveness

Closing Challenge

What one thing is God asking us to do this week to make positive improvements in our relationships?

Other Passages Cited

Ps. 42:1 As the deer pants for water, so my soul thirsts for You.

2 Pet 3:13 looking for new heaven and new earth

Micah 6:8 what does the Lord require? (justice, mercy, humility)