



Discussion Guide

"The Me Mirror"

Week of 1/15/2012

The Point: When You See "Self-Interest", God Sees Selfishness

Romans 12:3

Discussion Questions

- What are two things that stood out to you from this week's Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- [see *Thinking Outside the Box* below for a good opener]
- When you consider Paul's "pedigree" (Phil. 4:4b-6), what things do people today think makes them worthy of "special treatment"?
- Where do you find it hardest to put others first: work, school, church, or home? Why?
- What factors lead us to think that we should be first (i.e., selfish)?
- Often we will make excuses for not using our resources for anyone but ourselves. Discuss Matthew 25:14-30 as it relates to "our" resources.
- Take a moment to share what you've learned with your group: what are some things that you do to help you remember to put others first?
- What person with whom you've interacted in the last week (family member, co-worker, client, bus driver, waitress) would call you selfish?
- What is your "me" moment? Where do you need to stop making excuses and think of others first? Be specific.

Thinking Outside the Box

We all make excuses:

Excuses for being late. Excuses for failing to come through.

Excuses for forgetting an important date. Excuses for speeding. Excuses, excuses, excuses.

What are some of the craziest, most outlandish excuses that you've seen or heard? Have some fun and share these with your group (not that you've ever used these...).

Bible References

Romans 12:3(NIV) ³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Philippians 2:3(NIV84) ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

James 4:1-3(NIV) ¹What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Philippians 3:4b-8(NLT) ⁴I Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! ⁵I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. ⁷I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ!

1 Peter 4:10(NIV) ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Matthew 25:14-30 [Too long to print; read it yourself ☺]