

SICK OF EVIL • Week 3: What Are You Going to Do About It?

Daily Briefing • Day 4 of 5 • Slave of All

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20a

Sunday's message landed on serving together as a church so that people can actually hear about Jesus. Today we deal with the temptation that shows up the moment you start doing it. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I pray that You would help me to bring my absolute best when serving. There's such a temptation to do just a good enough job and to cut corners and to just show up and expect people to be grateful for whatever I bring because I'm working for free, giving my time for free. God, help me fight against the pull of our culture to just bring 50% effort to everything we do and to bring my absolute best as an act of worship to You. I pray these things humbly in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

Let's remember the tie-in of what we are actually doing here. We are sick of evil, so we are doing something about it. The only thing that changes the world at the root is a changed human heart, and that happens when people become disciples of Jesus. Sunday's message zeroed in on how a church actually does that together: serving one another, and serving the outsider who walks through the door on a Sunday morning hoping to hear real truth that solves real problems.

Here is the temptation that shows up almost immediately. Watch how much effort a person pours into anything with their own name on it. The side business. The home project they will photograph when it is finished. The presentation that might get noticed by the right person. They will lose sleep and skip meals to make those things excellent, because their name and their reputation are on the line.

Then watch the same person volunteer. They show up ten minutes late. They prepare for the lesson on the drive over. They cancel Saturday night because something more fun came up for Sunday. And underneath it sits a quiet assumption: "I am giving my time and my skill for free, so people should just be content that I showed up at all. Good enough is good enough."

The disciples asked Jesus a question about greatness, and He did not tell them to stop wanting it. He told them where it actually comes from. *"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all"* (Mark 10:43-44). Read that again slowly. If you want to be great, the standard for what you bring to serving other people goes up, not down.

The order underneath this is what makes it work. God first. The well-being of others second. Yourself third. That order is exactly why the effort tends to drop. When it stops being about your own name, the drive to do it well quietly goes with it. So the honest question is whether you are actually willing to bring God and other people your genuine best when there is nothing in it for you.

Consider what is riding on it. Someone walks in on a Sunday who has not been inside a church in fifteen years, or ever. Their kid gets dropped off in a room with a volunteer who did not prepare to serve in that role. The sound on the music or the speaker's microphone is bad enough to be distracting. Nobody greeted them and nobody noticed when they left. None of that changes whether the message is true, but it absolutely changes whether they stay engaged long enough to hear it. Serving badly does not just disappoint a volunteer coordinator. It can cost somebody the one morning they were willing to show up to see if they can find answers with Jesus.

Paul names the standard for Christians: *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men"* (Colossians 3:23). If the work is genuinely for the Lord, the fact that it is unpaid and frequently unnoticed changes nothing about how well you do it.

READ & MEDITATE

Mark 10:42-45

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Read Mark 10:42-45 and notice Jesus contrasts His own definition of greatness against how rulers usually operate, lording authority over people instead of serving them. Then read Colossians 3:23-24 and notice work done heartily is not separated from serving God. It is one of the main ways you actually do it.

REFLECT

Reminder: honest introspection and Scripture-informed self-assessment is far more beneficial than self-delusion and wishful thinking.

The disciples wanted greatness. Jesus did not scold the ambition. He redirected where it has to run.

Think about something you have poured your absolute best into because your name was on it. Now think about the last time you served at church. Was the effort the same when it was for God and others rather than for yourself?

Where specifically does your effort drop off when the credit does? Name the actual place: a team, a role, a commitment you keep half-keeping. If it helps, you can think outside of volunteering at church and think about chores around the home with your roommates or family members, neighbors, co-workers, employers or employees, etc. When does your effort drop when it's about others rather than yourself?

There is a quiet assumption underneath half-hearted serving: "I am doing this for free, so people should just be content that I showed up."

Have you ever caught yourself thinking that? What does it reveal about who you actually think the serving is for?

Fill in the blank from Mark 10:44:

and whoever would be first among you must be _____ of all. (Mark 10:44)

*These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.

Why do you think Jesus chose a word this strong instead of something softer, like helper or volunteer?

Jesus' life revealed the order of priorities and concerns that we are supposed to follow as His disciples: God first. Others second. Yourself third. When that order gets reversed, effort starts following credit.

Be honest about your actual order right now. What sits first, second, and third?

What would change about how you prepare and volunteer with your church if that order were actually right?

Somebody is going to walk into your church who has not been inside one in years, if ever. What they experience before, during, and after the message starts determines whether they stay for it or engage with it. Right or wrong, the effort revealed in the planning, the cleanliness, the facilities, the children's crafts, and the presentation all affect the conclusions they draw about Jesus.

Whose first Sunday could be affected by how well you do your part this week?

What is one specific thing you could do differently this week to bring your genuine best instead of settling for good enough? Do some honest introspective self-assessment before moving on.

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Matthew 28:19-20a from memory:
