



Lenses: Blind | March 14, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Sometimes we get so focused on our own vision, on accomplishing and accumulating, that we actually become blind to everything else.

Key Verse

Matthew 25:34-40 (NIV)

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Discussion

For some people, seeing the needs of those around them comes naturally. These people take ownership of the needs in their own city and take action to serve, selflessly and without a desire for fame or attention. They do things like wash and distribute blankets, serve food to the homeless and collect clothing items to distribute during season changes.

1. Who in your life is an example of someone who naturally longs to meet the needs of those around them? In what ways do they accomplish this?
2. Have you ever been involved in any activity or event that serves others?

There are important things in this world that we are often blind to because we get so wrapped up in our own vision. We miss out on things and needs that are right in front of us because we are so busy accomplishing, accumulating, and chasing after our own agendas.

3. How often do you catch yourself so caught up in your own world, that you are no longer in touch with the people or needs right in front of you? Why is this?
4. What do we miss out on when we are so distracted accomplishing and accumulating? What might it teach us to forego our own agendas and put the needs of others higher up on our priority list? What would this cost us?

Jesus has something to say about this, and encourages us to think a little differently. In Matthew 25:34-40, he asks us to take off our lens of busyness and accomplishment, and instead put on a lens that allows us to see the homeless, needy, hungry and thirsty in a new way. He tells us that whatever we do for the "least of these," we actually do for him. Jesus is asking us to see him in the very people we are called to serve.

5. When was the last time you interacted with a person in need (homeless, hungry, begging, etc.)? What do you remember about the interaction? What was your first reaction to the person in front of you?
6. How might you look at someone in need differently if you considered that Jesus desires for us to see him in these people? How might your attitude and willingness to serve change? Is this an easy or natural tendency/desire for you? Why or why not?

What's Next?

As followers of Jesus, we are called to see people as Jesus sees them...regardless of who they are and what our culture might say or assume about them. In order to do this, we need to put on a new lens that removes our own agenda and allows us to see people differently.

This week, each time you leave your house, do everything you can to interact with every person you meet as if he/she were Jesus. Instead of zooming in on your own agenda and becoming too busy to slow down and recognize the faces around you, choose to see people in a new way and with a new appreciation. Start here and then work to see people who are not like you in the same light.