



BREAKING THE ICE

If you were to rate how image conscious you are on a 1-10 scale (10 being the highest) what would you rate yourself?

How important is your image to you? (be honest)

Who did you serve last week? Did you sign up to serve on a team? If so, which one?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin continues our series on King of Hearts and how to serve like Jesus. He started the message talking about \$2 bills and how these bills have reminded him to see the uniqueness of every single person and how they matter to God.

1. Describe a time or way God has opened your eyes to see people as He sees them.

When we see others the way Jesus intends us to, we can serve them. But sometimes our lives are too self focused. We forget about others and how to serve them like Jesus. We believe greatness comes from the image we build of ourselves but greatness comes when we become more like Jesus and serve those around us. When we mix Image management with religion our faith becomes a performance and not genuine.

2. Describe a time where you mixed image management with your faith.

Read Mark 7:1-8

The Bible talks a lot about image management with your faith. In fact, there was a group of people who did this very well. The Pharisees were known to criticize and judge others when other people didn't enact traditions like the Pharisees believed they should. Pharisees were known for their faith to be performance based and their spirituality was tied into image management. When they started measuring spirituality by how well everyone practiced traditions, their faith became hypocritical.

3. How have religious traditions played out in your life? Have you put those traditions above relationship with others? How do you need to put relationship above traditions?

The religious spirit is about appearance. The Jesus spirit is about heart. Jesus wants our heart. He doesn't want our perfection or performance, He wants our hearts to be changed from the inside. When our hearts are in line with Him, our lives portray it. When our lives are based on appearance and traditions it leads to legalism.

4. Describe a time in your life where you have experienced legalism versus holiness and wanting to live like Jesus. What made them different?

Read Mark 7:20- 23

What's in our hearts matters to God. He doesn't care about being perfect. Are we seeking Him, loving others, serving others to be like Him? Is our heart lined up with His? That's what matters to God. To go from being hypocritical to being like Him means we come to Him every day. Confessing our sins, praying to be more like Him, giving him our desires, frustrations and hopes, asking Him to make us more like Him.

5. Where do you need to confess and pray to be more like Jesus?

Hypocrisy is pretending to be someone publicly that you aren't privately. The key to authentic faith is to practice being the person privately you want to be known for publicly. You pray privately, you give privately so that our "image" becomes more about what is in our heart and not what we do publicly.

6. What kind of things do you want to practice privately? How will those things help you become more like Jesus?

The more we see others in the image of God, the less we care about our image management.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for showing us the difference between caring about our self-image versus our image made in you. Will you show us where we have lived our lives based on impressing others and being someone publicly that we aren't privately. Will you kindly convict us of where we care too much of what others think and replace that with a heart to be like you. Will you show us ways we can pray, serve and love others in our private lives so we can become more like you. In Jesus name. Amen.

ACTION STEP

+ If you "found" a \$2 bill at church this weekend pray and ask God to show you who you can give it to and have a conversation with. Ask Him to open your eyes to see that person as He does.

+ If you haven't signed up for Serve the City yet with your group do that today. Go [HERE](#) to sign up.

+ Write down what God does in your life when you pray, worship and live generously in private this week. What does He show you? What does He tell you? How did you see others differently when you see them as the image of Christ?

+ Continue along with the Mark devotions [HERE](#)