



BREAKING THE ICE

How did you serve someone last week? If you participated in Serve the City, what was the best part of serving your community?

Who did you give your \$2 bill to last week? What happened?

Describe a time when you were surprised by someone's kindness.

MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin talked about what happens when we experience greatness. When we experience greatness, we can have a heart of gratitude or we can shift to a defense mode, protecting the greatness we experience.

1. When something really good happens to you, what is your usual response?

Pastor Kevin told a story from Alex Haley. In the story, he talks about a turtle on a fence post. "If you ever see a turtle on a fence post, you know he had some help." We can do great things, but who helps us with those great things?

2. Who has helped you do great things in your life? How did you thank them for their help?

Read Mark 8:31-37

Before these verses, Simon Peter had just told Jesus He was the Messiah. God revealed that to Peter and he revealed that to Jesus. In one setting, he is telling Jesus He is the Messiah. The next moment, Peter rebukes Jesus. Peter went from a mountaintop experience (a turtle on a fencepost) to a valley as Jesus corrected him.

3. Describe a time where you went from a mountaintop experience to a valley.

Anytime we experience something great, it's because someone sacrificed and served. When we experience greatness, we can have a tendency to self-preserve. We want to protect the great things in our lives. But Jesus wants us to trust Him for the great things that have happened to us.

In Mark 8:34-37, Jesus told us three important things: deny yourself, take up your cross, follow Him. When we deny ourselves, we are trusting Jesus. We are trusting Him for our protection and security. When we place our trust in ourselves, we get wrapped up in our success and it eventually destroys us.

4. Where do you place your trust? Who do you believe will help you succeed in this life?

Jesus asks us to give up our lives and follow Him for a better way. When we lose our lives to the way of Jesus, things like addiction, jealousy and anxiety are replaced with lives of love, hope and peace.

Read Mark 9:1-10

As we read in Mark 8, Peter had been corrected by Jesus, but Jesus forgave him. Jesus trusted Peter and wanted Peter to get a glimpse of who He was. Peter had already said Jesus was the Messiah, but now Peter was able to see with his physical eyes what that really meant.

5. Describe a time when someone gave you hope and a second chance after you messed up. What did that feel like? Have you done that for someone else? If so, explain.

Toward the end of the message this week, Pastor Kevin talked about two types of mountains in the New Testament book of Matthew: one is the mountain of temptation and the other is the mountain of transfiguration. Just like we are tempted, Jesus was tempted.

Jesus had to go through a transfiguration mountain of self-denial, surrender, serving and sacrifice and He calls us to climb that same mountain. We live lives of sacrifice and surrender so that others can see His love, compassion, peace and better way of life.

6. What are some things God has called you to surrender to Him so that others can see Jesus through you?

7. How can you live a life of love, sacrifice and service to glorify Jesus? What kind of changes need to take place for this to happen?

When we continue to deny our wants, pick up what He calls us to do and follow Him, He gives us the endurance, strength, love and way for our lives. Keep trusting, loving and serving like Jesus. It's worth our time to climb the second mountain as He gives us the power to do it.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank You for the opportunity to serve others like You. We are grateful for the mountain top experiences we have with You. Help us not to take those for granted, but to steward them well and trust You in the process. Will You show us where we live our lives in self-preservation? Reveal to us what we

need to deny and follow You. Surround us with people who can pray with us and encourage us along the path to follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

+ Continue reading through the book of Mark during this Lent season.

+ This week, as you are spending time with God, ask Him to reveal what you need to deny yourself of in order to follow Him more closely. Ask Him how you can live your life to climb the second mountain and be more like Jesus.

+ Pray and ask God who He wants you to invite to Cross Point's Easter services this year. Ask God to work in the hearts of those you want to invite. Easter service information can be found at crosspoint.tv/easter.