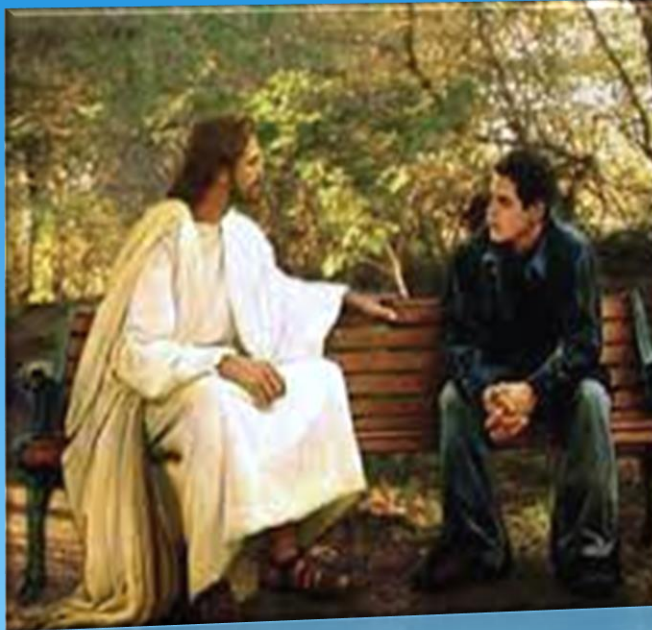




**“Do not labor for
the food which
perishes, but for
the food which
endures to
everlasting life”**

John 6:27

The Lord Jesus: The Ultimate Goal



Highlights

1. An ultimate goal or just a means to other benefits?
2. Accepting the Loss
3. The Spiritual practices
4. The scale of service
5. Dealing with Suffering



I. An ultimate goal or just a means to other benefits? ⁽¹⁾

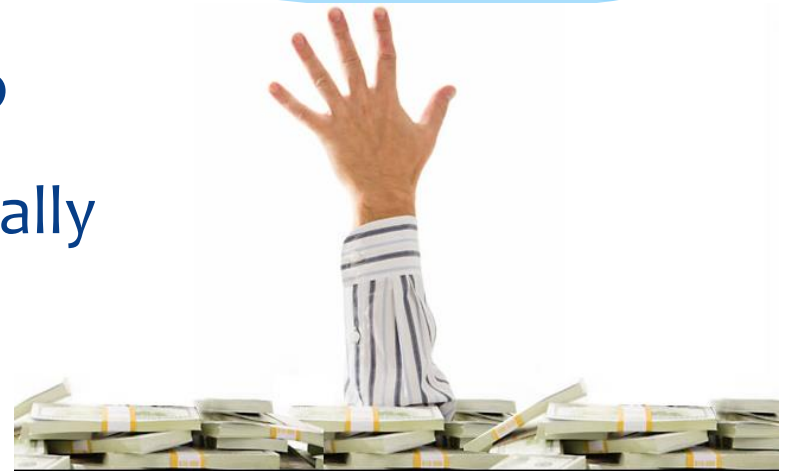
- The Lord's confronting words with the people's motivation: "you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled"

John 6:26



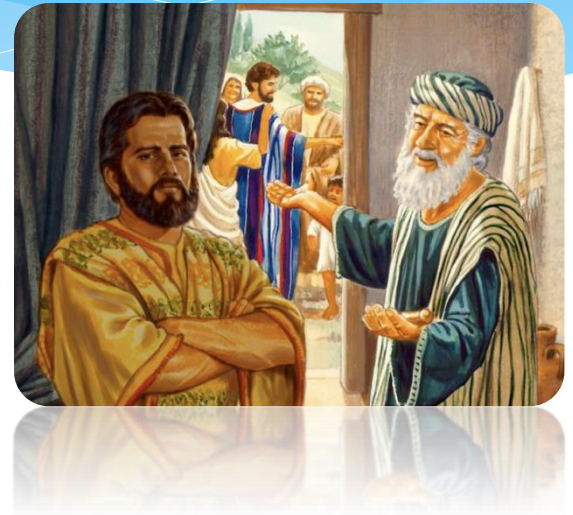
I. An ultimate goal or just a means to other benefits? ⁽²⁾

- If the Lord Jesus is not the ultimate goal, the relationship with Him will not lead us to really taste Him.
- If He is just a means to other benefits, the relationship will eventually collapse when facing challenges.



I. An ultimate goal or just a means to other benefits? ⁽³⁾

- “Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends” *Luke 15:29*



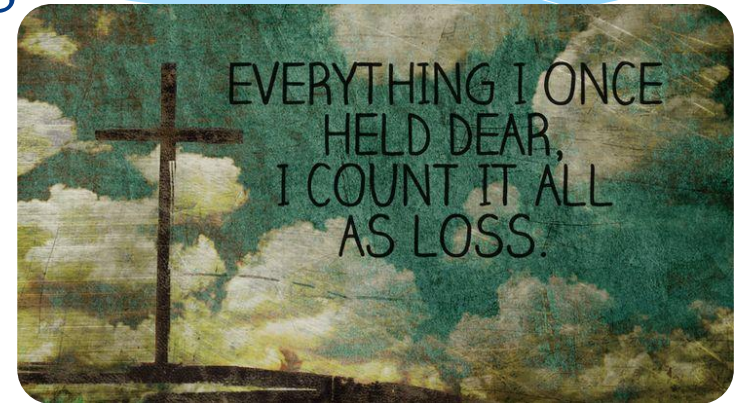
II. Accepting the Loss (1)

- The mark of a sincere and genuine relationship:
Accepting the Loss!
- “See, we have left all and followed You” *Matthew 19:27*



II. Accepting the Loss (2)

- “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” *Philippians 3:8*



II. Accepting the Loss (3)

- The examples:
 - Abraham
 - Moses
 - Zacchaeus
- The story of the king choosing an heir to his kingdom



III. The Spiritual Practices

- When do I pray? And what do my prayers revolve around?
- Expecting a reward for my fasting, prayers, tithing, or attending a liturgy?



IV. The Scale of Service ⁽¹⁾

- St. John's motto: "He must increase, but I *must* decrease."

John 3:30

- Applying this while dealing with others



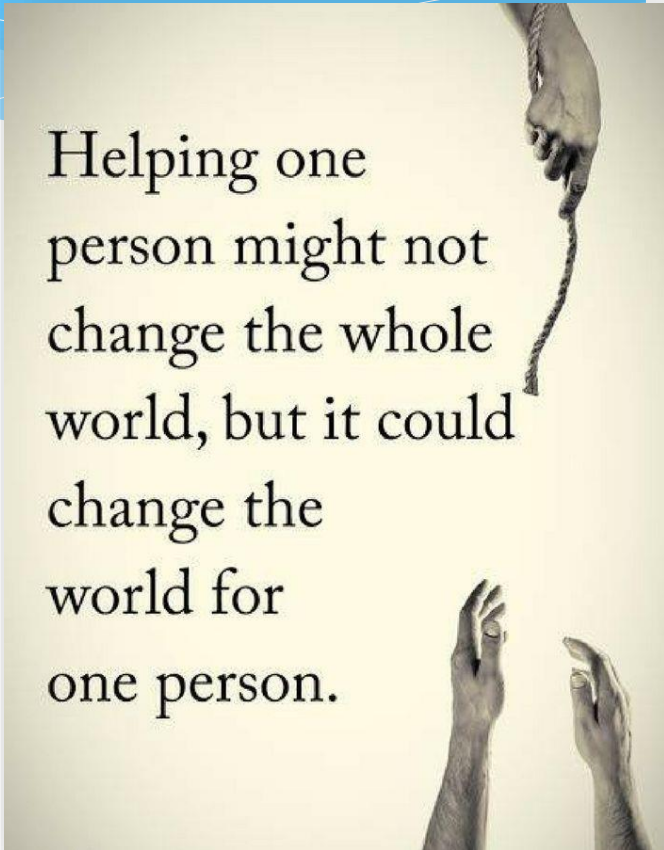
IV. The Scale of Service ⁽²⁾

- The perishable food of the service: The Ego, social recognition, and self-righteousness.
- Its marks: competition, no love to others, and fighting for what I want



IV. The Scale of Service (3)

- The Lord Christ, His glory and the salvation of His people being the ultimate goal in the service
- The marks of humility, endurance, cooperation, forgiveness, and putting each other ahead of personal gains



Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person.

V. Dealing with Sufferings ⁽¹⁾

- Laboring for perishable food will be exposed when facing sufferings
- When we deal with pain, following the Lord Christ will eventually stop if we are after His benefits and not Himself



V. Dealing with Sufferings ⁽²⁾

- When the Lord Christ is the ultimate goal: “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”

2 Cor. 4:17



V. Dealing with Sufferings (3)

- Participating in His suffering becomes a desire: “...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings”

Philippians 3:10



V. Dealing with Sufferings (4)

- Because He is the ultimate goal, His will is prayed for to be done in our lives.
- The relationship of faith and submission
- The story of the student and his failure in medical school

