

Cultivating Daily Reflection

How to See People Like Jesus June 6 & 7, 2020

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

The reality is all good things require work. What we really need when life gets challenging is a new way to look at ourselves, our relationships and the world around us. Join us for our weekday reflections as we respond and get REAL, so that Jesus can elevate our lives.

Day 1 – Cultivate Wholeness: Our culture places a lot of emphasis on self – we should eat right, be fit, make time for self-care and pursue what makes us happy. These things are good, but to live whole lives we need to find the balance between caring for self and serving others. One of the best ways to get our eyes off ourselves is to place them on others.

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4 NKJV

Jesus modeled care for self (rest, prayer, healthy boundaries) while still caring for others. Take some time to reflect on how well you balance these two things:

- Be REAL with self. In what ways are you looking out for the interests of others? Your family/people are important but try to think further out. How has investing in others brought you personal joy? If you're not others minded, reflect on why that is – you're in a busy season, unsure how to begin, have a lack of desire, etc.
- Be REAL with God inviting Him to search your heart. Are any of your personal choices driven by selfish ambition or conceit, thinking you are better than others or your needs are more important? This doesn't mean you should never consider self, but simply that you should check your motives. Ask God to show you **who** you could reach out to this week and **how** you could express interest in their life/needs.
- Be REAL with others you trust sharing any obstacles or struggles you are facing when it comes to your willingness to consider the interests of others. Invite them to help you see any "blind spots" by asking how you can be more considerate of their needs or the needs of others.

Day 2: Read 1 Samuel 16:7. Pastor Matt reminded us that Jesus did in fact see color, because He created color with purpose and design. However, when Jesus looks at us, He sees so much more – He sees the heart. When you look at others, what do you see first? Are you focused on outward appearance (race, skin color, economic status, perceived beauty, mannerisms) or are you willing to hear their story and see their heart? How do you need to challenge your focus, adjust your thinking or change what you see? Pray asking God for the courage to do the work within yourself SO THAT you can see others like He does.

Day 3: Our God is a God who sees both beauty and brokenness and promises healing. The world needs that hope more than ever. Read Psalm 107 – a call for us, the redeemed children of God, to declare His goodness and the promise that He delivers – and keeps delivering – those who cry out to Him for help. Cultivate His truth, then respond to God with what is on your heart.

Day 4: There are no shortage of unknowns, extremes and division in the world right now – but we are not of this world. God tells us that "so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (Romans 12:18 ESV) We cannot control how others choose peace, but we can do our part. How can you cultivate peace – whether in your home, family, workplace, neighborhood, community, in your social media feed, etc.? Be specific – what can you **start** doing and what can you **stop** doing to live peaceably with those around you?

Day 5: Jesus certainly loves us *as we are*, but He loves us SO much that He doesn't leave us *where we are*. He wants to see our character becoming more and more like His. How have you seen God change or grow your character – think about your thought life, attitude, words, values, relationships? This may be something you've seen over time or something you've seen more recently. Praise God for the work He's done and ask Him for the continued growth you want to see.