

Essential Christianity
studies in what we believe and who we are as Christians

Study 6: Serving (don't be a couch potato)

Discuss: What's the most significant thing a fellow-Christian has done to help or encourage you? Have you ever considered doing the same for someone else?

READ Mark 10:35-45

1. Is there anything that strikes you or puzzles you? Discuss ...
2. In his inaugural address as president, John F. Kennedy encouraged his nation to see the importance of civic action and public service, with his historic words: "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." Compare this with:
 - a. What James and John ask for, in verses 35-37
 - b. What Jesus tells them they should be doing, in verses 42-44
 - c. The example Jesus himself set (what is he referring to in v. 45?)

READ 1 Peter 4:7-11

3. Is there anything that strikes you or puzzles you? Discuss ...
4. What fact should shape our thinking and our living, according to verse 7?
 - a. Why is prayer so important in being ready for this (v. 7)?
 - b. Why are healthy, loving, relationships so important in being ready for this (vv. 8-9)?
 - c. Why is serving each other so important in being ready for this (vv. 9-11)?
5. What is our ultimate goal, according to verse 11? How does this differ from the way non-Christians live?

Reflect on this ...

6. What should you *not* do as a result of reading this passage?
7. What should you *do* as a result of reading this passage? [What *specific* things will you commit to doing?]