

Becoming like Jesus to others (Based on Chapter 1 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

Whenever someone helps us in our service to Jesus, they will be blessed with the same blessing we receive.

Biblical Foundation

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes God's messenger because he is God's messenger, will share in his reward. And whoever welcomes a good man because he is good, will share in his reward. You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is my follower, will certainly receive a reward. Matthew 10:40-42 (TEV)

Jesus says the least experienced disciple—the youngest in faith—can help the most powerful of prophets and receive a share in that prophet's blessing.

This interconnectedness is a reflection of God's passion for oneness. Jesus says he is one with the Father, sharing in the Father's passions. His mission was meant to reconnect us with Father so that we could share in the Father's passions through Jesus.

Because of this connectedness, when we support someone in his/her ministry to others, we will share in that person's blessings. We are blessed because we bless.

In other words, we enter into the cycle of grace—Jesus empties himself to leave heaven in order to fill us with his Spirit and that enables us to empty ourselves for others so they will be drawn to Jesus. Jesus enables us to place the interests and concerns of others as the greater priority over our own because we can trust that Jesus is looking out for our needs.

Discuss this paraphrase: "We are from God, and we come with the same attitude of Jesus, not using the Spirit for our own interest, but emptying ourselves in sacrificial service to you" (1 John 4:6 and Philippians 2:5–7).

Our journey with Jesus is designed to sever our ties to self-centeredness so that we will put the needs of others before our own. What do you think this looks like?