

Change Points!

Week Seven – Success

Memory Verse: Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. (Jesus – Mt. 16:24, The Message Translation)

Video introduction by Pastor Steve

Recap of week Change Points! #7 – Success!

The spiritual danger of success... (Prov. 30:7-9; Mt. 19:23-24)

- The more we make the less we give. (2 Cor. 9:8)
- The more stuff we have, the more we crave security. (1 Tim. 6:6-8)
- The more "successful" we are the more we look down on those less "successful". (1 Pt. 5:6)
- "It's all a gift!" (Gen. 1:1) or "It's my achievement!"

When you become successful... (Deut. 8:11-18)

Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath. (Deut. 8:18)
Jesus gives us the power to be successful so we can serve. (Mt. 20:25-28)

Next Step:

- Is my "success" self-focused or service-focused?
- Read daily: Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. (1 Tim. 6:6-8)

Questions to explore:

1. What is the definition of success that formed in our mind growing up as a child? Where did this childhood idea of success come from? Is your idea of success as an adult similar or different? How?
2. Read Deut. 8:11-18. Can you see how the Israelites success in the Promised Land would be spiritually dangerous for them? How has success in life been spiritual dangerous for you and your family?
3. Talk about what would you consider your successes or achievements in life, and how, although your effort was required, are they really each a gift from God?

Challenge question:

- Share an example of a successful person who is self-focused. Share an example of a successful person who is service-focused? Think about your own sense of success. Have you used the benefits of success to focus on yourself? How have you used the benefits of success to serve others? What might it look like to use your success to serve others? (Time, money, skills, advice, etc.)
- To ponder: Are you pursuing the world's idea of success – money and stuff – or are you pursuing success in God's Kingdom, which is using what God gives to serve others?