

The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, January 17, 2016

“Winning The Game of Life ~ Keeping Score”

John 13:1-17

The rules of scoring in any game tell the players which achievements _____ and what to do in order to _____.

Keeping score is really about defining _____. It’s the way we determine what _____ and what doesn’t. To talk about how we keep score is really to talk about how we define _____.

SCORE KEEPING IN THE BIBLE

- Cain kept score by _____ his _____ with that of his brother.
- Jacob had 12 sons who kept score by seeing who was their father’s _____.
- Saul kept score by the number of _____ and _____.
- The rich fool in Jesus’ parable (Luke 12) kept score using _____.

Our _____ is often dictated by whatever scoring system we use.

THE WORLD’S 3 SCORING SYSTEMS

#1. _____.

- _____ Comparison: Those who are _____ than us.
Danger:
- _____ Comparison: Those who are _____ than us.
Danger:
- _____ Comparison: Those who are _____ than us.
Danger:

#2. _____.

This is when we don’t just perceive ourselves relative to someone else—comparison—but also try to _____ the other—the question being:

Competition can become toxic when it gives rise to _____ and _____.

Competition can become dark when we’re tempted to _____ in order to come out ahead.

Competition can poison the soul when the “winner” and “loser” become labels of _____ and of _____, and respect for the battle itself or your opponent is lost.

#3. _____.

This is all about of _____ mobility at any cost—if you aren’t moving up—you aren’t moving!

Ladder climbing is all about _____. We look at people higher up on the ladder and we feel _____; and we don’t bother to look at people lower than us, so we have very little of _____ for those less fortunate than ourselves

GOD’S SCORING SYSTEM

“You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave.” (Mark 10:42)

“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give us His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

“Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance He humbled himself...” (Philippians 2:5)

The of Jesus isn’t a story about somebody climbing _____ the ladder—it’s a picture of someone climbing of _____.

The problem with spending your lifetime climbing up the ladder is:

“Therefore God highly exalted him...” (Philippians 2:9)

In the kingdom of God, keeping score isn’t about comparing, competing, or climbing—it’s all about of _____.

How do you react when you’re taken for granted, bossed around, or treated as inferior?

Unfortunately, a lot of our service is often of _____, and we serve to:

**How do I keep score? Do I have a servant's heart?
Do I seek to serve others or am I only looking to serve myself?**

As Paul tells us in that passage from Philippians, in order to answer this question, we need to look to of _____.

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF A SERVANT HEART

#1. Characteristic of a servant heart is _____.

“It was just before the Passover feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love.” (John 13:1)

Jesus shows us that true servanthood is motivated by _____.

“There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.” (John 15:13)

When we seek to follow Jesus' lead and look past ourselves, we begin to see others as Jesus _____ them.

As individuals created and loved by God—and therefore _____ of our _____; care, concern, and _____.

Another reason we need to serve out of love is because our service won't always be _____.

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.” (Galatians 5:13)

What motivates you to serve others—is it love or something else?

#2. Characteristic of a servant heart is _____.

“Don't look at his appearance or how tall he is, because I have rejected him. God does not see as humans see. Humans look at outward appearances, but the Lord looks into the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

Our world is overly impressed with the _____—our world values _____. God, however, looks on the _____—to the _____.

Jesus shows us that it takes _____, not weakness to be a servant.

According to John, Jesus had strength in 3 areas:

• strength of _____
“Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to His father.” (John 13:1)

• strength of _____
“Jesus knowing that God had put all things into his hands...” (John 13:3)

• strength of _____
“He knew that He'd come from God and was returning to God.” (John 13:3)

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13)

“Be strong in the Lord and his mighty power.” (Ephesians 6:10)

Do you serve out of your own strength or God's strength?

#3. Characteristic of a servant heart is _____.

“Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.” (John 13:4-5)

tap-i-nof-ros-oo-nay = humility =

In order to serve others, we need to _____ ourselves to them; to stoop low; to put their needs ahead of our own _____. We need to think _____ of ourselves and _____ of others.

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4)

“All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:12)

How about you—are you going to be exalted or humbled?

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you.” (John 13:14)

**How do you keep score?
Do you have a servant's heart?**