



Tough Love - Week 2

Message Discussion Questions

Introduction:

This week Chance continues a brand new series called 'Tough Love'. How do you feel about tough love? Tough love isn't easy to receive and it's not easy to give. Do you accept it or push back against it because it's too hard? Tough love is best given or received within relationship...it's necessary for growth. Tough love is advice not wanted, but needed. Jesus shared tough love via parables.

In Week 2 we will be looking at what it means to be on-guard/watch. What does it look like for you to be on-guard? Are you diligent in watching and being aware of what is going on spiritually around you? Why is it important to be on-guard?

Questions:

1. What should you be doing while you're waiting for Jesus to return, what do you do in the meantime? What have you been put in charge of? Do you know that the master has provided what you need to take care of those you're in charge of?
2. How would you define sensible? Do you see yourself as being thoughtful, prudent or wise? Do you take care of others needs before your own? Who are you tethered to, isn't he stronger than you?
Matthew 24:45
3. Do you live with an eternal reward in mind? Why is this reward different than just an 'atta boy'? How does that relate to the call on your life? What choice do you have to make every day regarding your call? How does the abundance of His love impact your ability to serve others? Matthew 24:46-47

4. Why does Jesus provide this warning against being an evil servant? How is this in contrast to the actions and behavior of the sensible servant? What could lead you to make the choice to do self indulgent evil? Matthew 24:48-49
5. In your life, are you most often serving yourself rather than serving others? If you look at your life over the last week, how many needs of others have you met when it was an inconvenience to you? Have you thought of yourself over others? How did Jesus model an inconvenient life? What areas of your life are you ignoring because it's inconvenient for you to be like Jesus?
6. Why is it important that Jesus emphasized that He WILL return again and that His return will be unannounced and unexpected? Does the judgment in this parable seem harsh? Are you at risk of wasting the gift He has provided you? Who are you sharing the good news of salvation with? Matthew 24:50-51
7. Why would how you think about the future effect how you live now? Are you future thinking like Jesus is? What is one thing that you can do for someone else that could change their perspective of Christians and Christ? What job do we have while we are waiting for His return? How can you put others needs before your own this week?

Key Takeaway: *His time is not the same as our time. And that can be a struggle. So as we are called to live in service to others, we ought to trust Him and not get discouraged. But we also need to be prepared by serving others while we wait. We need to be willing to be inconvenienced.*

Summary:

- What does it look like to be on-guard/watch?
- Being a sensible servant, (Phronimos) an understanding associated with insight and wisdom, sensible, thoughtful, prudent, wise (Matthew 24:45)
- Living for an eternal reward (Matthew 24:46-47)
- Contrast with evil servant (Matthew 24:48-49)
- Serving yourself over others?
- Jesus will return (Matthew 24:50-51)
- Thinking about the future effects how you live now...