



# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Jason Pennington // Sunday: August 6, 2023

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Who are two or three people who have most invested in your life?
- 3) How would you define the word investment?
- 4) One definition of investment is this: to involve or engage (especially emotionally) in the life of others.
- 5) Think together as a group: Where in Scripture are we commanded to invest in the lives of others? How are commanded to invest? How did Jesus invest in the life of others?
- 6) Read 1 Corinthians 4:16, 1 Corinthians 11:1, & Philippians 3:17 together.
- 7) How can the Apostle Paul tell others to imitate him? Isn't this arrogance? Should we really tell others to imitate us? Is this ever inappropriate?
- 8) Read Matthew 28:18-20 together.
- 9) In what way is this passage a command to invest in others?
- 10) Dr. David Crowe lists ten Biblical reasons to serve (or invest) in others. Read through these. Which of these stick out to you, or convict, or move you?

1. To grow in your relationship with Jesus. **Colossians 1:10 (CSB)** *“so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,”*
2. It will help you discover your spiritual gift and function within the church. This will fulfill your purpose and experience true and lasting fulfillment. **Romans 12:4–6 (CSB)** *Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. <sup>6</sup>According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one’s faith;*

3. When you serve – you are using your spiritual gifts and talents for the edification of the kingdom. **Ephesians 4:11–12 (CSB)** *And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>equipping the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ*
4. Because when you serve, you are obeying a direct command of scripture. **Galatians 5:13 (CSB)** *For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.*
5. Because you will be following the example of Jesus. **Philippians 2:5–8 (CSB)** *Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. <sup>7</sup>Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.*
6. Because you will find friendship and community in the service of and with others. **1 Corinthians 3:9 (CSB)** *<sup>9</sup>For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building.*
7. Because it is greater to give than to receive. **Acts 20:35 (CSB)** *In every way I've shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* ”
8. Because no labor done in the Lord is in vain. **1 Corinthians 15:58 (CSB)** *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*
9. Because it glorifies God. **Matthew 5:16 (CSB)** *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*
10. Because God has ordained and prepared good works for you to do. **Ephesians 2:10 (CSB)** *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.*

11) Read Matthew 13:3-9 together.

12) What stuck out to you in this passage? Especially as you think about investment?

- 13) How would you sum up the parable of the Sower in one or two sentences?  
How might the parable of the Sower help us avoid being manipulative in our preaching, teaching, and evangelizing?
- 14) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you've discussed and learned during this time of study.

Some of these content take from:

- Dr. David Crowe of South Orlando Baptist Church
- David Platt, [\*Exalting Jesus in Matthew\*](#), ed. Daniel L. Akin, David Platt, and Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2013), 186.