“Make an Impact”
Series: IMPACT

Opening Discussion Question.

1. Who has made an impact in your life? What was it?

When we think of people that have made an impact, they are almost always people that did something for others. We typically don't recall someone's name that served themselves for a lifetime. We don't remember people that made contributions to math, science or the arts unless that contribution had an impact on people or society. There's a reason Thomas Fairchild isn't a household name. He's the guy that created the first ever hybrid plant. He successfully crossbred a carnation pink (Dianthus caryophyllus) with a Sweet William (Dianthus barbatus), and the resulting plant, described as Dianthus caryophyllus barbatus, became known as Fairchild's Mule. Interesting, cool, but not life changing.

Matthew 22:37-40 - “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

➢ What makes these commandments so “great”?

➢ How does love completely satisfy the Law and the Prophets?

➢ What aspects of your faith can you keep hidden from the public and still honor God?

➢ What aspects need to be displayed or demonstrated in order to honor God?

➢ How does this scripture relate to Paul’s statement (1 Corinthians 12:31) “I will show you the most excellent way”?

Matthew 25:31-40 – 31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before
him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

➢ This scripture sounds like we can work our way into heaven. What’s wrong with that theological perspective? (hint: Ephesians 2:8-9)

➢ Historically, what has been your understanding of “serving” as it relates to God/Jesus?

➢ When you serve others, how does that make you feel?

➢ If God designed us to feel good when we serve, why don’t more people do it?

➢ How is it that we are serving God when we are serving people?

➢ What motivates us to serve?

Matthew 25:41-46 — 41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ 44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ 45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’
46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

➢ Does this portion of scripture suggest that if I don't serve others I'm going to hell?

                      o What is it saying? What is the main point?

➢ Why do we have a hard time seeing God in others?

➢ How does the condition of our heart impact our relationship with others and the world around us?

➢ What do you need to do to get your heart where it can love God and neighbor more fully?

**Additional Scriptures**
1 Corinthians 13