



Date: May 21st, 2023

Title: I Am (Not) The Greatest

Scripture: Luke 9:44-48

Introduction to Analog

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else”. Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another, deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

Teaching Season

There are several stories that cause one to wonder exactly who Jesus is. While we may be quick to offer an answer, Luke does no such thing. Rather he tells several stories of parables, interactions and miracles all leading up to Jesus asking the question himself: “Who do you say I am?” And we are invited to respond.

Teaching

We explored the ways Jesus once again speaks of the upside-down nature of the Kingdom of heaven as he speaks of the pursuit of being least. In our context, we award the best, fastest, strongest, and those who win. Jesus confuses everyone by saying it is the “least among you who is the greatest.” We say this, we hear this, but what does this mean exactly, and what does this look like in our context today in Denver? Why are we enamored, as a culture, with the “next best thing?” The mysterious answer to that question seems to be found in the journey of descent.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

Opening Question for the Group: Start your group discussion with the question below.

1) Who’s your dream dinner guest and what are you cooking for them?

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. What are some ways you are tempted by status-seeking in your life?
2. What are the status symbols that most tempt you — money, fashion, notoriety, praise, job title, moral goodness, or something else?
3. Christian mystic Cynthia Bourgeault says that Matthew's "kingdom of heaven" [or what other Gospel writers call the "kingdom of God"] is a metaphor for a state of consciousness whereby we see the world and others the way God does. What do you think about this way of thinking about God's kingdom?
4. What are some ways you've encountered "virtue games" in which morality or goodness becomes the standard of status?
5. In Matthew 18, Jesus calls his disciples to become more like a little child by living into humility rather than seeking status. What are some ways you could begin nurturing a posture of childlikeness in your life?

Spiritual Practice:

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Imaginative Prayer — The Little Children](#)