



What is your favorite card game? What is the secret to winning?

1) The Grace Card. (1-19)

- Gratitude trumps grumbling.
- Generosity trumps fairness.

Every disciple is a laborer in the kingdom. What kingdom responsibility do you shoulder weekly in the church? Are you working for Christ with faithfulness and fruitfulness? Describe the fruit you are seeing from your ministry.

Is God fair? Do you want him to treat you fairly? What would you get if he did?

What have you grumbled about this week? How often do you find yourself comparing or complaining about your possessions or position? Why is all grumbling ultimately directed toward God?

Which card do you play in these scenarios? Gratitude or Grumbling?

- When someone receives a greater blessing than God has bestowed on you?
- When you are sick, short on finances, undervalued, overworked, and underpaid?
- When ministry is hard, fruit is scarce, while others are experiencing more growth with less effort?
- When those who are newer, less experienced, or less educated than you are given preference over you?
- When God answers the prayers of others before yours?
- When God assigns to others a field you would like to work in?

Think about the following in these scenarios? Generous or fair?

- Which card would you prefer God to play in relation to your sin?
- Which are you playing when your identity and sense of worth is dependent on your work, wages, production, or performance?
- When you demand that God give you what you want, or something He has done for someone else?
- When you withhold grace from those who have not met your expectations?
- When you withhold forgiveness until someone has paid off the debt you think they owe you?
- When you try to earn favor with God by religious exercise?

2) The Humility Card. (20-28)

- Serving trumps being served.
- His ransom trumps my self-righteousness.

Have you ever tried to deliver someone from a difficulty God is using to build greatness into that person?

Would those who know you best say that you are more like an overbearing ruler or a humble servant?

What intentional acts of humility have you chosen this week? (Questions about your humility are hard to answer without sounding proud, aren't they?)





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read 1 Peter 5:6. Discuss this statement: *Humiliation is a prerequisite for exaltation.*

What is the main motivation for working in the Kingdom and serving others? (The answer is found in v.16-19) How does the gospel continually fuel our humility?

What is the significance of the word “for” in verse 28?

3) The Mercy Card. (29-34)

- Need trumps ability.
- Following trumps sitting.

What is the difference between the two blind men in v.29-34 and the two men in v.20-28?

Make a list of all of your spiritual needs. How long was your list? If you found it difficult to think of things to add to your list, you’ve actually been playing the “ability card” more often than the “mercy card”. The longer your “needs” list, the more likely you are to finish first.

How often do you specifically acknowledge your neediness to God in prayer?

The more focused you are on your abilities the more difficult it is to see your need.

Additional Scripture

James 4:6, 10

1 Peter 5:6

Philippians 2:1-11

Isaiah 57:15

Psalms 34:18

Luke 14:7-11

