



SERMON NOTES:

1. Selfishness thrives in difficulty.
 - Difficulty often has traces of narcissism.
 - A narcissist's followers take on his tendencies.
 - A narcissist's subjects experience his chaos.
2. The enemy manipulates difficulty to shield us from holiness.
 - We are tempted to justify evil when it is balanced with good rather than holiness.
 - We are tempted to justify evil when we benefit from it.
3. Deceit must be exposed in difficulty.
 - When I persevere through difficulty, Holy Spirit exposes deceit.
 - When I follow Holy Spirit, he places my feet in secure places.
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GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Narcissism can be defined as selfishness, involving a sense of entitlement, a lack of empathy, and a need for admiration.
2. Think about some difficult situations that you have faced. Are there any that can be traced back to narcissism? Were you the narcissist in that situation? Describe the chaos of that situation. How did others affected by that difficulty respond?
3. Are there evils you have justified because you felt good works balanced them out? In what ways is this a flawed response to evil?
4. Has there been evil that you have justified because of how it benefits you? Is losing those benefits worth exposing the evil?
5. When we face difficulty, Holy Spirit is the only one who can expose deception. In what ways have you been deceived in difficult situations? In what ways has the Holy Spirit exposed deceit?