the Venues
Go Deep
7 Habits
Character Counts
2.25.18

What was your parent's favorite music?

Read 2 Peter 1:5-7. Focus on the word "goodness." The Greek word, *arete,* means "the best." We get our word "aristocrat" from it. Groups are always rating "The Best" this or that. Your turn.

> *The best restaurant in Springfield?*
> *The best basketball player ever?*
> *The best movie this year? Ever?*
> *The best person ever - not counting Jesus.*

Peter is challenging us to be the best. Being the best is an inside job. It's about character.

Read Matthew 23:25-28. Most Bible versions start the passage with the word "Woe." That's not a word we hear too often today!

> *What does that word mean?*
> *What is Jesus communicating with his metaphors?*

In his book, 7 Habits for Highly Effective People, Stephen Covey talks about "paradigm shifts." Here's a dictionary definition of paradigm shift: "an important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way."

> *What are some examples of paradigm shifts?*
> *Have you had a paradigm shift? Something that caused you to see something, think about something differently? Care to share it?*
>
> *Do we need a paradigm shift in how we think about the importance of character?*
> Stephen Covey proposes that character has taken a back seat in our values?
> *Has the role of character been diminished in our culture?*

To be a person of character we need to embrace responsibility defined as:
> Response - ability: I have the **ability** to choose how to **respond** to life, to circumstances, to people.

Some people are proactive and some are reactive.
> A reactive person will say, "He makes me so mad."
> A proactive person will say, "I choose to respond in anger." *Which person are you most of the time? How can* we be more proactive and less reactive?

Read Galatians 6:1-5.
> *What is the difference between Galatians 6:2 and 6:5?*
> *Try to get into Paul's head. What is he trying to communicate?*

Pay attention to your words this week. How many times do you use reactive words like "If only…." "You make me…." "Why can't they…"