



PART 5: WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

Sermon Notes

Text: Matthew 19:15-15, 28:19; Mark 1:40-41

Introduction:

We learn from Jesus, not just by His words but by His interactions with real live people.

The problem: We marinate in a human values system that categorizes and ranks people.

Jesus turned his culture's ranking systems upside down.

1. He Spent Time With Children

Matthew 19:14,15 "But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.' And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left."

2. He Spent Time With Women

John 4 (The Woman at the Well)

Not only does Jesus recognize and minister to women, He took time to connect to a woman spurned by her own community.

Jesus regularly revealed his mission to the people who we would ignore.

3. He Spent Time With The Diseased

Mark 1:40, 41 "A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. 'If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,' he said. Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!'"

Christ demonstrates that emotion moved him to action. Emotion is not a detriment to us as human beings. Emotion is a way for God to get our attention!

This is a way that God invites us into a specific part of His great commission!

4. He Spent Time With The Least of These

Jesus taught us how to live, He showed us what is important – and People matter to Jesus, the vulnerable matter to Jesus – and if they matter to Jesus, they must matter to us!

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"

Notice the word 'all' in this passage. Somehow we are inviting you to consider who you haven't considered locally and internationally. We are called to be like Jesus!

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

1. Warm up: Did you attend the Missions Seminar on Saturday? What stood out to you? What stood out to you about Sunday's message? How could you be more involved in missions?
2. Currently in Europe, the church is struggling with how to respond to the refugees crisis. There are many Christian movements who are doing amazing things for these homeless people. Food and shelter is being provided, in the most difficult of places. However, there are some Christian churches who are saying, "We don't want any refugees in our town. We have enough problems without adding more people in need!" There are some who say, "This is just a plot by Muslims to take over Europe. We're not going to help with that!" Before you judge these responses, what would be areas where you, as a Penticton resident, would struggle with ranking and judging people? Can you find any passages of Scripture that would help you, and the churches of Europe know how to respond in a Christ-like fashion?
3. Read Matthew 19:13-15. Who would be the children in your community who Bethel could invite in? How could you engage with children in a meaningful – blessing kind of way – in your life? Do any of your missionaries work with children? How could you bless and encourage them in their work?
4. Read John 4:4-26. Jesus took time to recognize and connect with a woman who was spurned by her community. What else does Jesus do that recognizes and empowers this woman?
 - Who do we ignore in our community?
 - How could we make a difference in the lives of women locally and internationally?
5. What is one thing a Life Group could do together to be more involved in missions locally and/or globally?
6. Pray together:
 - a) Take time to pray for the vulnerable who God is speaking to you about. You may even want to confess attitudes or perspectives that were not in line with who God is!
 - b) Pray for Darcy and Leanne in their work around the world
 - c) Other requests:
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