

Small Group Discussion Guide — June 13, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
 - Sermon: The Savvy Jesus
 - Scripture: Luke 20: 20-26
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

What was an opportunity you had this past week to deny yourself and follow Jesus' leading?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Who do you think of when you hear the word "savvy"? What about this person makes you describe them this way?

ENGAGE

Read Luke 20: 20-26.

1. What do we know about the motivations of the people questioning Jesus here?
2. What ability does Jesus have, according to verse 23? Does the fact that Jesus can do this bring you comfort, or does it disturb you? Why?
3. What do you think Jesus meant by his answer in verse 25? What belongs to "Caesar" and what belongs to God?
4. What do you make of the spies' response to Jesus?

APPLY

1. Jesus constantly challenged the religious and political leaders of his day, and he still challenges the power structures of our own hearts. David explained that Jesus is never *condemning*, but regularly *confronting* of the things that stand between us and God. How would you explain the difference between condemning and confronting? What attitudes or predilections do you hold in your heart that Jesus might be calling you to confront and surrender to Him?
2. How much would your life change if you lived with the full understanding that Jesus is always walking with you, hearing everything you say and perceiving your every thought?
3. Although an understanding of the seriousness of our sin is essential for our salvation, living or striving under a sense of guilt is not the gospel as Jesus explained it to us. In other words, it's not a "guilty gospel." Why do you think guilt has been used so often in the history of religion? How is Jesus' offer of real life different from a religion steeped in guilt, and where are you in grasping this truth for yourself?

PRAYER

Dear Father, you know what's in our hearts, every pure and loving thought and every depraved and selfish one, and yet you love us and offer your grace. For this we are eternally grateful. Help us through the power of the Holy Spirit to take captive every hurtful thought, every impure motive, and surrender to your lordship of our lives. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

David said that each of us has three eyes through which we see ourselves and the world: our insecurities, our identity deficits, and our idols. These categories keep us captive in our “familiar Egypt,” while Jesus wants to lead us to freedom and life. Take some time this week to ask God to reveal the specific insecurities, identity deficits, and idols that you hold, and invite Jesus to bring truth and wholeness into these areas of your life. What do you sense God saying to you? Begin the habit of regular examination of these areas in prayer, and commit to trusting God to bring freedom to these and all aspects of your life.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:22

John 2: 25

John 4:29

Matthew 10: 16

Matthew 28:18

Matthew 19:3/Mark 10:2

Matthew 22:35

Luke 11:54

Luke 20:26

John 8:6

QUOTATIONS

“Beware of paying attention or going back to what you once were, when God wants you to be something that you have never been.”

Oswald Chambers

“Our idols inevitably fail us, generally, sooner rather than later. And as they begin to fail, we begin to grasp ever more violently for the control we thought they promised and we deserved.”

Andy Crouch

“He speaks grace and truth. He reveals our idols and insecurities without condemning. He calls us to own our failings and take responsibility for doing our own internal work. Yes, He seeks to set us free and grow us up.”

Tim Keller