

Small Group Discussion Guide — June 27, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
 - Sermon: Jesus and the Marginalized
 - Scripture: Luke 7: 36-48
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

What have you noticed about your friendship with Jesus this past week? What are some steps you've taken to be a better friend to Jesus?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Describe a marginalized student that you went to school with. How did you respond to that student? Ignored him or her? Joined in the ridicule? Befriended him or her? How do you feel about your reaction looking back?

ENGAGE

1. Read Luke 7:36-38. How does Luke describe the woman, and why do you think she has that reaction to Jesus?
2. Read Luke 7:39-48.
 - What point is Jesus making in verses 41 and 42?
 - How does Jesus compare the woman to Simon the Pharisee?
3. Both Simon and the women want something from Jesus. How do their motives differ? How does Jesus respond to each?

APPLY

1. Pete said those who see their poverty and need (like the woman in the scripture) willingly and honestly come to Jesus for forgiveness and redemption. The powerful and the "haves" (v. the "have nots") are the ones who need to guard their hearts against an unwillingness to admit their need and come to Him. What do you think about this idea? In what ways have you seen this idea play out in your life?
2. How would you define the difference in seeing the marginalized's humanity, and not just their need? How can we become more like Jesus in our awareness and response to those who are marginalized within our own community?
3. How should our own path from marginalized sinner to heirs of the kingdom change how we see those who are still in need of God's saving grace? What is our charge as the redeemed in Christ towards those in need?

PRAYER

Blessed Father, we come before you helpless and hopeless without the saving grace of your Son, Jesus. We praise you and thank you for seeing us when we were in the corner, and bringing us out into the light of redemption. We pray for those still living in shadow, that they too may find the light of life in you. Show us how we can bring your kingdom to the marginalized among us. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray. Amen

GOING DEEPER

1. Tim Keller said, "Religious people find God useful. Christians find God beautiful." In what ways have you fallen into the trap of finding God useful? What most often reminds you of the beauty of God?
2. Consider a service project that your group could do together to serve the marginalized in our community.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25: 37-40

QUOTATIONS

"Consider your own life. How do you think about Jesus' attitude toward the dark pocket of your life that only you know? The over-dependence on alcohol. The lost temper, time and time again. The shady business about your finances. The people-pleasing that looks to others like niceness, but which you know to be the fear of rejection. The entrenched resentment that bursts out in behind-the-back accusations. Who is Jesus, in those moments of spiritual blankness?"

Dane Ortlund

"Religious people find God useful. Christians find God beautiful."

Tim Keller

"You can always recognize the ones who have been through the fires of sorrow and you know you can go to them in your moment of trouble and find they have plenty of time for you."

Oswald Chambers