

Small Group Discussion Guide — July 11, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
 - Sermon: Jesus the Rabbi
 - Scripture: John 8: 2-11, John 5: 39, Matthew 5: 17-18
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Did you have any cause for repentance this week? How did considering it an invitation to return to full relationship with God change your attitude toward repentance?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Share a memory about a favorite teacher you had growing up.

ENGAGE

1. Read John 8:2-11.
 - As you read this passage, imagine you are one of the people witnessing the scene. What are some things you notice about Jesus in His interactions with the Pharisees and the woman?
 - What is the motivation of the Pharisees in bringing this woman to Jesus? Contrast their treatment of the woman with Jesus' attitude toward and treatment of her.
 - Read verse 7 again. How do these words of Jesus land in your heart? What do you think Jesus meant by this?
 - Why do you think Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground? Scripture doesn't tell us definitively, but what are some possible reasons?
 - Read verses 10-11. What do you take away from Jesus' parting words to this woman? If you were the woman, what would you be thinking at this moment? How does it help you understand Jesus' response to sin in your life?
2. Read John 5:39. Does this verse challenge any views you've held regarding scripture, and if so, how? What's the real value of the Bible?
3. Read Matthew 5: 17-18.
 - What do you think Jesus meant by "abolish the Law and the Prophets"? Why did this matter so much that Jesus made a point of telling the crowd this?
 - What is Jesus claiming, by saying He will fulfill the Old Testament scriptures?

APPLY

1. David mentioned that Jesus is unmatched in his ability to bring together God's word and the human heart. Can you think of any ways that might be effective for you to allow scripture to really touch your heart, moving beyond thinking of it as "great teaching"? What do you do when you feel an internal tension between what Scripture says and the feelings of your heart?
2. David also imagined thousands of people in Jesus' vicinity feeling a stirring inside: "I just want to go hear Jesus teach." But it seems that reading Jesus' teaching sometimes feels a bit like a chore. Why do you think there is this discrepancy? Do you struggle with this and, if so, what are some practices you can use to hear Jesus' words in a fresh way?

PRAYER

Father, there is no teacher now, or ever, to whom we should pay closer attention than your son, the One you sent to heal and save us. We listen carefully to so much of what comes across our radar every day - lead us, we beg of you, to devote ourselves even more to the teachings of Jesus. For He, and He alone, holds the key to bringing our hearts into union with yours. May His words, and the way He said them, be forever and always in our hearts. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

When Jesus calls us to follow him, he also calls for a complete commitment of our hearts. Yet he also says that his yoke is easy and his burden is light. How are you able to reconcile those two statements?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 9:10

John 7:46

Revelation 21:4-5

QUOTATIONS

“For all his originality and all his uniqueness, Jesus did not begin a new religion. His life did not begin something new but fulfilled something old.”

Eugene Peterson

“He said, ‘Before Abraham was, I am.’ In other words, he is previous to everything that Abraham was and is to them. Christ is the priority. Jesus is before any of that which they value so highly. Jesus is not a latecomer who is adding his two cents to everything that has already been said through the years by Abraham, Moses, David, Socrates, Confucius, and Buddha. He is previous to all of it, preexistent. He is the first cause, the primary source. He is that which is eternally at the beginning.”

Eugene Peterson