

Small Group Discussion Guide — July 18, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
 - Sermon: Jesus and the Crowds
 - Scripture: Matthew 4: 23-25, Mark 3:7-10, Luke 9: 18-20
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

David said we are all her - the woman caught in adultery. Exposed until Jesus comes along and protects us, saves us, corrects us. How have you felt God's saving grace in your life this week?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. How do you react to crowds? Do you revel in the energy generated by large groups of people, or do you look for the closest exit?

ENGAGE

1. Read Matthew 4: 23-25 and Mark 3:3-10. If possible, look at a map of the region in Jesus' day such as this: <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/a1/be/3c/a1be3c4ef304e1bda7ec00f920bdafef.jpg>
 - What did the crowds want from Jesus?
 - From how far away were they coming, and why were they coming to see Him?
 - How does Jesus appear to feel about the crowds?
2. Read Luke 9:18-20.
 - Why would Jesus be interested in what the crowds thought?
 - Who were the crowds coming to see?
 - What were they missing?
 - How does he prepare to minister to the crowds?

APPLY

1. What is your main reason for seeking Jesus? Are you looking for healing or a blessing? Perhaps you want to know Him personally and learn from Him? Describe what is driving you to seek Him.
2. Jesus' question to the disciples is a very personal one. Regardless of what the crowd says, it is a question that each of us must face individually, "But what about you? Who do you say I am?" How do you answer that, and how well is your answer reflected in the your life? Where do you see room in your actions to align more closely with Jesus?
3. Jesus gave us great examples of how to deal with the "crowds" pressing in on us, whether that is your family, your job, or your service to others. How does Jesus serve with grace without being overwhelmed? How can we follow his example in our lives?

PRAYER

Gracious God, we thank you that you give your life to the crowds coming to you day and night, each member with unique needs and desires, hopes and cares. We know that you will always seek us out in the crowd. You listen, care, and always walk with us through the peaks and valleys of life. You alone can sustain us, heal us and pick us up when we fall. All glory, honor and praise is yours! Amen

GOING DEEPER

1. Read Matthew 27:15-26. How do you respond when everyone around you is rejecting Jesus? Do you follow the crowd? Do you stand with Him? Are you a good friend to Jesus? What are some ways you can find courage to take a stand for Jesus?
2. How do you respond to “the crowd?” How do you share Christ’s love - even with those who reject it?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Matthew 27:15-26, Mark 1:35-38