



How Did Jesus Do Outreach? 4. The Least of These: Luke 7:36-50



Overview

We continue in our preaching series entitled: "How did Jesus do outreach?" This past Sunday being the fourth in the series of eight entitled: "The least of these". So we are half way through. I hope you have been challenged and encouraged as I, and many others have been to this stimulating topic, and seeing how radical Jesus was in his approach to outreach.



Getting to Know You

This week Ps Steve mentioned a moral dilemma: it was a beautiful young woman who was forbidden from taking part in her graduation ceremony at her Christian school in the USA because she became pregnant, and therefore had contravened the school's moral code of conduct, and she was held accountable for her immorality. It of course attracted a lot of media attention, and criticism, including from other Christians who argued that the school is showing no Christian compassion to the teenager. Juxtaposition, and not an easy dilemma to resolve. Jesus also found himself being faced with such difficult dilemmas, and often resolved them with very radical and upside-down responses, They were counter-intuitive to what the world in His day would have done. It certainly begs the question... How would Jesus have responded to Maddi Runkles, and to the High School Board of Trustees?

I wonder, have you ever encountered any such type of dilemma personally that required a response from you? Would you be willing to share it with your life-group?



Digging Deeper

Ps Steve has rightly pointed out that there are many examples of Jesus radical upside-down teaching that focuses on the "least of these". Too many to try to consider in a sermon. Therefore, he chose the story from Luke 7:36-50. We could very easily look at any number of other situations recorded for us by Luke or any of the other gospel writers.

However, let's take a different perspective and consider what the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi about Jesus, and his teaching. Please read and reflect on Philippians 2:1-11.

- What do you discover from this passage about Jesus?
- Does it align with what we read in the Gospel of Luke and the teachings of Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus' teaching was so radical then?
- Do you think Jesus' teaching is still as radical, and if so, why?

Some of the principles that can be derived from Jesus' teaching could be expressed simply in the following...

- Less is more
- Small is big
- Slow is fast
- Last is first
- Insignificant is significant

Can you think of other principles that we can express for Jesus' teachings that are radical and "upside-down"?



Taking it Home

- What might these principles look like in our everyday lives?
- How might you respond to Maddi Runkles if you had opportunity to meet up with her today?
- What might your response be if a prostitute were to express her worship for Jesus in similar ways in a modern day setting?

Just as Jesus confronted and challenged the Pharisees thinking and mind-sets, and even that of His own disciples; how might Jesus be challenging you and I in regard to how we respond to modern day moral dilemmas that we encounter?



Prayer

Take time now in silence to reflect on what you have been discussing.

Read and reflect again on Philippians 2:1-11

Paul encourages us to be like-minded, having the same love, and being one in spirit and mind as Jesus.

Ask God to show you how you might be more like Jesus.

Pray too for our wider church community that we will all grow in the likeness of Jesus and shine the light and love Jesus into our community, and beyond.