

Week 1: How Jesus Interacted with People
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Jesus and the Woman Caught in Adultery

- John 8:1–11
- The law required death for adultery.
- Jesus offered mercy and compassion.
- He did not excuse sin, but He did not condemn the sinner.

Jesus and Society’s Untouchables — The Lepers

- Mark 1:40–45
- Lepers were required by law to live outside the city.
- They were declared “Unclean!” and exiled from society.
- Jesus moved toward them and touched what others avoided.

Jesus and the Publicans and Sinners

- Luke 15:1–7
- The religious mindset was separation to maintain holiness.
- Jesus moved close to offer restoration and hope.
- He sought the lost rather than avoiding them.

Interaction Matters

- Does how we speak to the broken, overlooked, and difficult matter?
- Proverbs 18:19
- Colossians 4:6
- Our tone, posture, and approach reflect Christ.

Truth and Delivery

- Truth never changes, but delivery matters.
- If you call out sin, offer mercy.
- Offer hope before calling for change.
- Offer restoration before demanding growth.

Things to Think About

- Who are the “overlooked” or “difficult” people in your life?
- Do your words reflect both truth and compassion?
- Are you more inclined toward judgment or restoration?
- How can you better model the way Jesus interacted with people this week?

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Jesus and the Woman Caught in Adultery



Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

John 8:1-11



**When sin
demanded justice
for my soul,
mercy said no....**

- By the law, death was the punishment for an adulterer (Leviticus 20:10)
- It was a very serious offense!
- The law required justice be served for the man and the woman caught in adultery.
- Two witnesses were required (Deuteronomy 17:6).
- The two witnesses were supposed to throw the stones first.

- Death seemed imminent, but mercy stepped in.
- The law required death, but she heard the words, “He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her.”
- The only One worthy enough to throw a stone, did not throw it.
- Woman, where are your accusers?
- Go and sin no more.

Jesus, the sinless One, responded to a woman broken by sin, with loving compassion and mercy. He offered her hope, a new chance at life. He gave her truth without cruelty, and protected her before correcting her. He restored her before He instructed her to “Go and sin no more.” He didn’t compromise truth. She needed to change, but He gave her hope first. He didn’t excuse her sin, but He didn’t condemn her.

**Jesus and
Society's
Untouchables
—
The Lepers**



And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;

And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

Mark 1:40 -45



**There's nothing too dirty,
that you can't make worthy.
You wash me in mercy,
I am clean....**

- Lepers were required to live outside the community.
- They were exiled from society.
- Lonely, cut off, excluded, isolated, no physical contact, no kind human touch.
- They were supposed to cry "Unclean! Unclean!"
- Can you imagine what a sad and lonely existence that must be?
- Touch is an essential human need!

- The Bible says that Jesus was “moved with compassion”.
- Jesus reached out His hand and touched the leper!
- The one that was rejected by society, the unclean one, the gross, disgusting, dirty one...Jesus touched him.
- The one who everyone else avoided, that is who Jesus was moved with compassion for.

This was more than just a touch, this was Jesus restoring dignity to the rejected in society. He gave the leper an essential human need, the need for connection. His touch told that leper, I see you. You aren't too dirty for me to come near. You aren't too unclean for me to reach out to. You aren't too forgotten for me to care. You aren't too rejected for me to love! The Bible doesn't tell us how many years it had been since He had felt the touch of someone, but I wonder, had it been awhile? Jesus compassionately reached the untouchable and those avoided by society.

Jesus and the Publican and Sinners



Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luke 15:1 -7



I will send out an army to find you in the middle of the darkest night, it's true, I will rescue you...

- The Publicans (tax collectors) and sinners came to hear Jesus.
- The Pharisees and Scribes could not understand why Jesus would sit and eat with sinners.
- Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep to show them that He would leave the 99 sheep to find the 1 lost sheep.
- Jesus showed the religious that holiness does not mean utter isolation from sinners, but that He would actually rescue the lost and broken in sin!

As Jesus interacted with the publicans and sinners that day, He revealed that He would leave the ninety-nine to rescue the one.

Imagine living without hope...Perhaps never hearing that redemption was possible for you.

Then one day, Jesus comes, and you hear a story like this. You begin to realize:

You are worth pursuing.

You are not forgotten.

You are not without hope.

You can be forgiven.



Jesus sought the lost rather than choosing to avoid them!

Our interaction with the lost, broken,
overlooked, difficult, and unwanted matters.
If they mattered to God, then they matter to us!



A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

Proverbs 18:19

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Colossians 4:6

Truth never changes, but delivery matters.

If you call out sin, show them where and how to find mercy.

Offer sinners hope before calling for drastic change in their lives. People need to feel the love of God when they come face to face with their reality, their sin.

Our goal isn't to condemn sinners, but to bring them to the One Who can restore them.