

Jesus: Kicked Out for Reaching Out
Sermon Based Discussion (May 1, 2016)
Social Responsibility Emphasis 2016

WARM UP

1. Growing up, in what situations or groups did you feel like an outsider or unwelcome in. In other words, when did you feel like you were “the stranger” or “the other”?

Perhaps you can relate to feel like “the other.” Some felt like “the other” in the schools, perhaps as a minority. Sometimes Christ-followers feel like “the other” for their beliefs in certain industries or academic institutions. Perhaps non-Christians feel like “the other” when they visit our church or small group.

Here’s a thought: even though God is the Creator and author of life, He understands what it feels like to be “the other”. In this session we see that Jesus was kicked out by his own people for his mission to reach out to all peoples to include them in God’s kingdom.

INTO THE BIBLE (Read Luke 4:14-30)

2. Jesus said that he fulfilled the prophecies written in the Scriptures (v.21). What was he asserting by making that claim?

3. Look up the backstory of the widow of Zarephath and/or Naaman the Syrian. (See 1 Kings 17:8-24 for the widow. See 2 Kings 5:1-14 for Naaman). What did Jesus hope to convey by bringing up those two figures?

UNDERSTANDING

4. Why were those in the synagogue angry at Jesus?

5. What did it cost Jesus—in this episode and overall ministry—in order to be the Messiah and Savior to the poor, the prisoner, the blind, and the oppressed?

6. How does a Christian manage the tension of reaching out to different groups without condoning all the choices/beliefs of those groups? (In other words, how was Jesus able to stand for God’s justice and holiness but at the same time able to eat with sinner?)

DIFFERENCE

7. Can you share a time when someone extended grace to another person/group and suffered for that?

8. Which group or person(s) would be difficult for you to reach out to, either because you look down on them, or because it would cost you to do so?

APPLICATION

9. Jesus’s references to Elijah and Elisha teach that sometimes God uses his followers to reach people who are not in their expected “target group.” What group or person(s) has God brought into your life which were not in your expected “target group”? What can you do to share Christ with them?

10. Who might feel like “the other” around you in your daily life? What can you do practically to show the kind of love Christ has shown you?

