



A PORTRAIT OF A MISSIONARY

Sunday, October 24, 2021

WELCOME TO PORTRAITS OF JESUS WEEK #2...

If we are going to be like Jesus, we must live like Jesus lived. And as we'll see in [Mark 2](#), living like Jesus is not always easy. Jesus goes to places and spends time with people that we'd often prefer to avoid. But when you understand your 'why' (like Jesus did), that will shape the places and the people that you spend time with.

In Mark 2:17, Jesus says, *"I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."* Because Jesus had clarity around His 'why', He knew exactly where He needed to be and who He needed to be with. Thus, when Levi (Matthew) invites Jesus to a party with all his 'sinful friends', Jesus doesn't hesitate to say 'yes.'

Jesus was a missionary who faithfully lived out His mission no matter where He was and no matter who He was with. As followers of Christ, we too are called to live as missionaries in the places God's called us to with the people He has surrounded us with. And the mission we've been given is clear – help people see Jesus so that they might begin a relationship with Him.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

Invite people in your GROUP to share a time where they were able to share their faith with someone. Allow them to talk about the experience, both the positives as well as the negatives. Identify some of the challenges there are in sharing our faith and cultivating friendships with people who are far from God.

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT...

1. Read [Mark 2:13-17](#) – make some initial observations about this story. What stands out to you about Jesus' invitation to Levi the tax collector to become a disciple? What about the party Levi throws with Jesus and all his 'sinful friends...' – why would this be so shocking and upsetting to the religious leaders?
2. Read [Mark 2:13-14](#) – Jesus invites Levi, a 'tax collector', or in the eyes of the Jewish people 'an enemy of God' to follow Him and be His disciple. How would Levi have understood this invitation and why was he so quick to walk away from his former life to start following Jesus?
3. Read [Mark 2:15-16](#) – sharing a meal in the first century was a sign of friendship. It was symbolic of 'I want to know you and I want you to know me.' Why does Levi not even hesitate to invite Jesus along with his 'sinful' friends to bread together knowing what breaking bread together meant? The Pharisees response to Jesus' presence at the party is heartbreaking. What's behind their question to Jesus' disciples?

Portraits of
JESUS
ACCORDING TO MARK

4. Read [Mark 2:17](#) – What do we learn about Jesus as a missionary from this verse? Read also [John 20:21](#). How does Jesus' mission inform the people and the places that He spends time with?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE...

1. If we'd be like Jesus, we need to see people like Jesus – loved by God and people who'd make great followers of Jesus. How do you see people in your life? Through what lens do you see them? How might you begin to grow in seeing people as Jesus sees them?
2. Is there anyone in your life that you are currently saying 'no' for? Is there anyone that you are assuming by their lifestyle choices would never be interested in Jesus? Why do we do this and what might it look like to begin operating from a posture that people want to follow Jesus?
3. Do you know what your 'WHY' is? How might things begin to change for you if you viewed yourself as a missionary? How would life in your neighborhood, or place of work or study change if you understood that you were a missionary entrusted with an eternal mission? What holds you back from seeing yourself through the lens of being a missionary?

APPLICATION TO CONSIDER...

Who is one person that you could extend an invitation to this week? Whether that be an invitation into your home to share a meal or an invitation to join you at church on Sunday – who is one person that you will not say "no" for but will extend an invitation to this coming week?

Whoever that one person is, spend some time praying for that person and then share with your GROUP the invitation that you'd like to share with them this week.

WATCH/LISTEN TO 'A PORTRAIT OF A MISSIONARY' HERE:

www.genesthejourney.com/sermon/portrait-of-a-missionary