

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 12, 2014

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *Sinner to Saint*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. This weekend we heard that no one is too messed up to experience God's life-changing love and compassion. Yet accepting God's grace in our lives or showing God's grace to others can still be a challenge. Which do you think is more challenging for you – accepting God's grace in your own life or showing it to others?

2. What one or two challenges in your life have led to the most personal growth?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard Larry say no one is too broken or messed up to become a saint. In Matthew 8:1-13 we see two examples of guys who could have easily considered themselves too "messed up" to approach Jesus. What can be learned from each of their approaches to Jesus and how his responses can be applied to our own relationship with him?

What additional insight do you see in Leviticus 13:45-47 that sheds light on Jesus' interaction with the leper?

How does God's compassion for a leper reinforce or change your opinion about his desire to have a relationship with each of us?

2. This weekend Larry talked about what's involved in the transformation from sinner to saint. He mentioned it starts with a fear of God, it involves obedience and it takes time. What do you see in the verses below that can also help us in this transformation process?

2 Peter 1:5-8

Romans 8:5-11

Ephesians 4:22-24

What insight from these verses is most helpful to you in the transformation process?

3. Throughout the Bible we see examples of the type of people God wants to use. From prostitutes (Rahab), to tax collectors and murderers, God's picked people society would see as "least likely to succeed" and used them to greatly impact those around them. How could Jesus' treatment of the following outcasts shape our perspective toward "outcasts" in our own life?

Luke 5:27-32

Luke 8:40-48

Matthew 20:29-34

As you reflect on God's compassion, who might you tend to treat most like an outcast? Yourself, those closest to you, or others?

TAKING IT HOME

What's one thing you want to focus on in the next week to help you move farther from sinner and closer to saint?

Prayer Requests:

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Matthew 8:1-13

Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy

8:1 When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. 4 Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

The Faith of the Centurion

5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

7 Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. 11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment. [NIV]

What additional insight do you see in Leviticus 13:45-47 that sheds light on Jesus' interaction with the leper?

Leviticus 13:45-47

45 "Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' 46 As long as they have the disease they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.

Regulations About Defiling Molds

47 "As for any fabric that is spoiled with a defiling mold—any woolen or linen clothing, [NIV]

How does God's compassion for a leper reinforce or change your opinion about his desire to have a relationship with each of us?

2. This weekend Larry talked about what's involved in the transformation from sinner to saint. He mentioned it starts with a fear of God, it involves obedience and it takes time. What do you see in the verses below that can also help us in this transformation process?

2 Peter 1:5-8

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [NIV]

Romans 8:5-11

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. [NIV]

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. [NIV]

What insight from these verses is most helpful to you in the transformation process?

3. Throughout the Bible we see examples of the type of people God wants to use. From prostitutes (Rahab), to tax collectors and murderers, God's picked people society would see as "least likely to succeed" and used them to greatly impact those around them. How could Jesus' treatment of the following outcasts shape our perspective toward "outcasts" in our own life?

Luke 5:27-32

Jesus Calls Levi and Eats With Sinners

27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. 29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 8:40-48

Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman

40 Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. 41 Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house 42 because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. 43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. 44 She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. 45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. 48 Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." [NIV]

Matthew 20:29-34

Two Blind Men Receive Sight

29 As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. 30 Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

31 The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

32 Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked.

33 "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight."

34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him. [NIV]

As you reflect on God's compassion, who might you tend to treat most like an outcast?
Yourself, those closest to you, or others?

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