

The Politically Incorrect Jesus

Seeing the whole text of chapters 1-2:

Romans 3:9-26, 5:8, 1 Timothy 1:15-16, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- ✓ Jesus hung out with the party crowd because they were **sick** and they **knew it**.
- ✓ Jesus avoided the religious crowd because they were **sick** and wouldn't **admit it**.
- ✓ Christianity is the only club where you have to be **unqualified** to get in.

What Jesus was all about:

- ▶ Jesus came to do **transplants**, not **cosmetic surgery**.

This is good news for the **sick** who want to **change**.

This is bad news for the **sick** who won't **admit it**.

Where are we in the story?

Matthew 5:13-16, Philippians 2:14-16, 1 Peter 3:15

- We don't play the role of **doctor**, we just introduce people to the **doctor**.
- We are the **four friends** who have an opportunity to see **lives changed**, or just get **good seats**.

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of February 17, 2019

MY STORY

- 1 When you think of what it takes to reach the world for Jesus, what would you say is your part in making that happen? Which part of that role makes you nervous, confused or fearful?
- 2 Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 This week we were reminded of the incredible opportunity we have to see people's lives changed by following Jesus. What do these three passages of scripture tell us about how to have this kind of influence?
 1. **Circle** / **highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
 2. **Underline** the verse you see as most important to remember.
 3. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

Luke 19:1–10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

What can we learn from Jesus' actions and attitudes toward Zacchaeus?

Matthew 5:13–16

¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

In 60 seconds, write down as many examples as you can think of about what it means to be the salt and light.

List any reasons and/or examples of what keeps us from being the salt and light.

Ephesians 4:29, 31-32

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Which words or character qualities do you think you need to consider putting into action or avoid doing?

TAKING IT HOME

Telling Your Story/Giving a Reason:

1 Peter 3:15-16 tells us that we are to be ready to give a reason to everyone who asks why we're following Jesus. Some might think you need to give an in-depth theological answer. Instead, a simple way to respond to this question is to tell them your story about how Jesus has changed your life. Take a couple minutes to answer three questions. Chances are, you will be able to give a reason anytime anyone asks "why are you following Jesus?" in 3 minutes or less (no matter your aptitude or education level).

1 Peter 3:15-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1. What was your life like before you were a follower of Jesus?
2. When and/or how did you realize your need for forgiveness and what Jesus did for you?
3. How has your life changed now that you're a Jesus follower?

Being Part of Someone Else's Story:

The three passages we studied in the Digging Deeper section focus on three ways we can influence others – engaging in friendship, the words we say and the character we live out. Is there one you should pay more attention to than the others? If so, explain.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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