

THE MISSIONAL MARRIAGE STUDY – SEASON 2

“Incarnational Marriage: Implications from Christ’s Ministry on Earth”

Session 2.3 - Christ & The Marginalized

CONCEPTUAL IDEAS TO CONVEY:

- ❖ Everything in our culture has a value to us. Either it’s worth something to us or it’s not- but everything has a price attached to it. For Jesus Christ, there was nothing in this world worth more than people- ALL people! So much so, that the price He put on them was His own life.
- ❖ As believers in Christ, we need begin seeing people as valuable. We need to begin asking ourselves, “how much is a person’s life worth?”
- ❖ We need to begin loving that which Christ loves- and that is people who are far from Him
- ❖ Our love for people needs to be without discrimination concerning who they are, what they look like, what they believe, or what behaviors they embrace.
- ❖ This love also needs to be sincere, intentional, and missional in nature.
- ❖ The only way we can love this way is to 1.) have first been touched by this type of love ourselves, and 2.) to pray and ask God to change our hearts from the inside-out.

QUESTIONS FOR DIALOGUE:

1. What’s the most expensive thing you’ve ever bought? Why were you willing to pay what you paid for it?
2. How do we typically assess value to something? (i.e. – car, clothes, house, etc...)

(VIDEO CLIP: “SCHINDLER’S LIST”)

3. What was a person worth to Amon? What was a person worth to Schindler?
4. What were the results of their differing value assessments of people?
5. What did Jesus say was the ultimate proof of what love is? (John 15:13)
6. As great of love as Schindler had for the people in his day, how much more does Jesus love us? How did He prove it?
7. How do we (American Christians) typically love the people around us?
8. Who is the hardest “type” of person for you to love? (be honest)
9. With what type of are we called to love them? (see below)

TYPES OF BIBLICAL LOVE:

- **Phileo** – the love that a friend has for a friend
- **Storge** – the love that a parent has for a child
- **Eros** – the love that a husband has for a wife
- **Agape** – the love that God has for people... unconditional love.

10. How do most people in our culture (and in culture’s past) typically respond to racial or ethnic minorities? Handicapped? Mentally ill? Diseased? Homosexual? Sexually Immoral? Different religious views?
11. Why is it so hard for us sometimes to love those who are different than us? What does this show us about how we view ourselves? (see also Romans 12:3)
12. As believer’s in Christ, what should be our model for love? (John 13:34)

“WHO” IT WAS JESUS LOVED:

- Luke 17:11-17... loved the widow who just lost her son
- Mark 6:30-37... loved those who were tired, hungry, and lost
- Mark 10:17-22... loved the guy who was absorbed in materialism
- Luke 10:30-37... loved those who despised Him
- Luke 15:11-20... loved those who betrayed Him
- Many other texts where He showed His love for the...
 - Handicapped (blind, deaf, and mute)
 - Prostitutes (Mary, woman at the well)
 - Diseased (lepers)
 - Demon-Possessed (legion)
 - Politicians (tax collectors)
 - Ethnic Minorities (Syrophenician woman)
 - The Hurting (Lazarus' family)

Jesus loved people without discrimination... in fact, the most common “receivers” of His love tended to be the people nobody else would love.

“HOW” & “WHY” IT WAS JESUS LOVED:

Matthew 9:36... *“Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed & dispirited like sheep without a shepherd”*

- How... “Compassion” (Splanchna) – literally means “bowels”
- Why... “Distressed” (Ekluo) – literally means “to harass to the point of fainting”
- Why... “Dispirited” (Rhipto) – literally means “to pin down by force”

APPLICATION POINTS:

1. We must learn to pray for God to change our hearts
2. We must learn to see people as Christ sees them
3. We must learn to treat people as Christ treated them
4. We must initiate this love instead of waiting for “the right opportunity”

HOMEWORK:

- ❖ Take some time this week, individually before God - and as a couple - to confess your sins. Confess any callousness you've had towards people who are different from you (people whom God made and loves). Confess any judgmental spirit you might have had towards those people. Confess any ways in which you've mistreated people in that past week or month... Anything that the Lord lays on your heart concerning your lack of love towards people whom God loves (could also be a parent, spouse, friend, coworker, etc...) Then ask God to begin changing your heart... to give you eyes to see people as He sees them... hands to treat people as He treats them... Ask God to renew your love for Him and remind you of His great love for you.
- ❖ Write down the names of people whom you know that you could do a better job loving as Christ loved. Over the next week or month, find ways to love those people- whether it be through words of encouragement, acts of service, time spent with them, surprise gifts you can get them, etc...
- ❖ Finally, spend some time dialoguing with your spouse about your honest feelings towards people different than you... folks that might fall into the category of “marginalized” (i.e. – handicapped, racial or ethnic minority, homosexual, etc...). Discuss with your spouse ways in which y'all can better love and serve those people in our community...

The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?” And Jesus answered and said to them, “It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”
- Jesus (Luke 5:30-32)