

PCC

3.27.22

Catch Up

Spend some time catching up as a group. Use the following question as a guide:

1. What's something you're anxious about this next week?

Now transition to the main discussion by answering this question:

2. Thinking back on Sunday's teaching, what stood out as being particularly comforting, challenging, or confusing?

Dive In

Have someone read [Matthew 8:18-22](#) and [9:9-13](#) and then discuss the following questions:

3. What stands out to you about the way that Jesus calls people to follow him? If Jesus were to physically call you like he did the disciples, what are some things that would stop you? Put another way, what would you be most afraid to leave behind?

- Jesus' play on words using the term "dead" in 8:22 suggests that those who are dead spiritually have priorities that are different from those who are following Christ. Following Jesus trumps everything else. Jesus wanted wholehearted and immediate obedience, not delays and excuses.
- Followers of Jesus must be willing to accept a lifestyle that involves both denial of physical comforts and rejection for their faith.

4. Looking at verses 10-13, what surprised the Pharisees about Jesus, and why was this surprising to them? What does Jesus' response mean, and what does this tell you about what it means to follow him in apprenticeship?

- Pharisees would have regarded as sinners anyone who failed to keep God's law as they interpreted it, and the term here seems to reflect a commonly understood meaning by which it included both people guilty of publicly known sin and others who did not keep the strict purity requirements of the Pharisees.

- “Sacrifice” summarized observance of religious rituals. More important to God was “mercy” which would have led the Pharisees to care for these sinners as Jesus did.

5. Who are some people in your places of influence that others would be surprised to see you associating with? What’s something you can do in the next few weeks to demonstrate hospitality to these people?

Now read [Matthew 9:14-17](#) and discuss the following questions:

6. Why does Jesus compare himself to a bridegroom, and what do his illustrations of the cloth and wineskins mean?

- *“As the Physician, He came to bring spiritual health to sick sinners. As the Bridegroom, He came to give spiritual joy. The Christian life is a feast, not a funeral. The illustration of the cloth reminds us that He came to bring spiritual wholeness; He did not come to “patch us up” and then let us fall apart. The image of the wineskins teaches that He gives spiritual fullness.” — Warren Wiersbe*

Practice

7. How would you define your current relationship with Jesus? Vibrant, boring, confusing, distant, fruitful? What barriers are preventing you from experiencing deeper joy in your apprenticeship to Jesus?

8. What next steps do you feel God calling you to take in your apprenticeship to him? How can your Growth Group encourage you as you take these steps?

Spend the last few minutes praying for and encouraging one another.