



Sermon Discussion Guide

Upside Down Kingdom: Get Used to Diff't

Week 4: Presence

John 5:1-9 | July 19, 2020

Big Idea

The King of our Kingdom, Jesus, operates very differently compared to the rulers of the world. He is a present King and asks us, as his followers, to come alongside him in that and be present with others.

Opening Questions

1. Can you share a real-life example of where you were stuck in a pattern of doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results?
2. What living person would you most like to have a conversation with and why?

General Sermon Thoughts/Questions

1. This weekend we talked about how uncomfortable the scene of John 5:1-9 would have been (multitudes of the sick; lame; blind, etc.). Can you think of uncomfortable situation you were in? Why was it uncomfortable and how did you respond?

Key Scripture Questions

1. Read **John 5:1-9**. A common perception of kings/rulers/celebrities is that they don't want to get their hands dirty. They often seem to prefer a safe distance from complicated situations. In contrast, what do we see here in Jesus that differs from most people in authority?
2. In regard to your personal relationship with Jesus, what is significant about his presence on this scene and why? How does it make you feel about Jesus?
3. How does what we see here about Jesus' presence impact our overall view of and/or approach to "religion" (works versus relationship)? What are some works-based activities that can become unhealthy? What makes them cross over the line from healthy to unhealthy? Have you ever fallen victim to trying to get to Jesus versus letting him get to you?
4. Read **Luke 19:1-10**. This passage is another great example of some things we explored in the sermon: *seeing versus looking* and *without contact, there can be no impact*. What stands out to you in this story? As it relates to the sermon in particular, what stands out to you about the actions of both Jesus and Zaccheus?

Application Questions

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon &/or our discussion?

2. What is something God wants you to now do?

3. Beyond prayer for each other is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer Time

“Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your presence with us, and for pursuing us rather than simply waiting for us to pursue you! Thank you for being close to the brokenhearted and saving us when we are crushed in spirit. We are asking you to help us demolish any walls we have built up and to let you in. Empower us to be present with those around us. Give us Your eyes to see the world around us as you do, and to respond as you prompt us to. Amen!”