



LIFEGROUPS

Series: Arrival

Scripture: *Luke 7:36-50*

Date: March 28-29, 2020

Message: *Inclusion*

—[LET'S START]—

We have entered a new phase in our new reality. This week millions of Minnesotans were ordered to “stay at home,” in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. What are some of the positive ways that your life has changed over the past few weeks? What are some of the challenges?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** This is normally a time that we share personal prayer requests and gratitude for what God has done in our lives. Let's not stop doing that. But, let's also take some time today in extended prayer for our world. Pray for God's intervention. Pray that God would give you opportunities to have deep spiritual conversations in the days and the weeks ahead. Pray that there would be an openness in people to talk about Christ. Pray for courage to live for Christ and to trust Him in the days ahead.
2. This weekend Pastor Dale preached on Luke 7:36-50. Today, our LifeGroup is going to look at the entire chapter. Let's read it section by section. As we do, we're going to just answer four simple questions.
 - What does this passage teach us about God?
 - What does it teach us about humanity?
 - Why is God teaching you in this passage?
 - Who do you know that needs to hear what God is teaching us through this passage?
3. Begin by reading Luke 7:1-10.
4. Next read Luke 7:11-17.
5. Next read Luke 7:18-35.
6. Finally, read the passage that Dale preached on this weekend, Luke 7:36-50.

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—[LET'S ACT]—

God is doing amazing things in our world, despite the global pandemic that we are experiencing. This week we asked four simple questions about our reading. The final question was, "Who do you know that needs to hear what God is teaching us through this passage?" Let's pray that God would give us opportunity to encourage others with the hope of the Gospel during the season that we are living in right now. Let's pray that God would give us wisdom on when to talk and when to keep silent, and the boldness to speak up and act up for the glory of Christ and the welfare of others.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- Below is an outline of this week's sermon:
- This time of necessary social distancing has exacerbated and intensified feelings of loneliness for a lot of people. We were made for relationships. Even those of us who are introverts need others.
- You have not been forgotten, God is in search of you and he loves you.
- That's why the church exists, we are to be a place where people experience the unconditional love of Jesus!
- Simon was interested in Jesus but not enough to treat him with respect.
- The woman saw it! And it broke her heart. How could Simon forget? But that was part of the trouble with Simon's religion, it forgot the people who were not like Simon. They were necessary casualties, all in the name of righteousness.
- Simon may have forgotten Jesus but she remembers! She tries to make up for his spiritual and social distancing. Unable to anoint Jesus' head or hands, which were customary, she settles on his feet. She weeps, not because of her sin but because of how her Savior has been treated. Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, "She was swept up into the suffering of God in Christ."
- "Jesus knows what she has been and what she now is – a forgiven sinner – and what he, Simon, is thinking." – N.T. Wright
- What was the purpose of Jesus' parable?
 - Both owed debts. One was greater than the other. No matter how much or how little each owed, they both owe. They can both expect judgment for their debts. Sure, she's a sinner but in the end so is Simon and they both deserve the same judgment and destiny.
 - The scary thing about Simon and those like him is he cannot see what the woman recognized. She knew she needed a Savior, she knew her sinfulness. Simon did not. People like Simon don't approach Jesus with a sense that they need forgiveness and rescuing. They don't feel forgotten or lost. Before they ever come to Jesus they have already settled in their mind and hearts who they are going to be and what they want out of life. They don't need Jesus to get there.
 - If Simon really understood who Jesus was and what He was offering, he'd be on His knees kissing the feet of Jesus.
 - To the degree one knows how forgiven they are they are able to love. She loves much because she is forgiven much.
 - Tim Keller says, "If you don't see yourself to be a terrible sinner and a completely forgiven sinner, you will not be able to love people or life like someone as she."

- Go and begin to explore living in the peace of God because you are completely forgiven and loved by God. You are not forgotten.
- This weekend you're not forgotten either. You may think you are and you may feel that way but you're not. You need to move into the peace that is yours through Jesus.
- Two things that can help you and me do that and the woman in this incident shows us what they are.
 - First, what does her alabaster of expensive perfume mean to her? That little flask that she would have worn around her neck Keller says, represented her desirability and her attractiveness. It was her power but she takes it, breaks it and pours it out on Jesus as if to say I don't need this anymore, it's not my identity. You are now what makes me attractive and I desire only you. I don't need anyone else anymore.
 - Secondly, her hair. Why is it such a big deal that she let down her hair to wash the feet of Jesus. Because in the ancient world and still in some middle eastern cultures, when a woman let's down her hair it is a sign of surrender. That is why she only does this in the presence of her husband. Keller says, "By giving up power, she got power. By surrendering to Jesus, she found that she never again will ever have to surrender to anyone else."

—[NOTES]—
