

JESUS AND OUTSIDERS

(King Jesus: The Gospel of Matthew- Part 39)

November 22, 2020

The Passage: Matthew 15:29-39

Differences between the feedings in Mt. 14 and Mt. 15:

Different place

Different time of year

Different amount to begin with

Different amount left over

Different gathering in activity/duration

Different _____

Different one taking _____

Jesus' Inclusive Exclusivity:

God's plan is to reconcile _____ to himself through _____

Gentiles in Old Testament

Gentiles in New Testament

The Gospels

The Book of Acts

The Epistles

So What?

Jesus Creates A New _____ with a New _____

Fill-ins: people; the initiative; the world; Jesus; Humanity; Humility

Life Group Questions for the Week of November 22, 2020

1. Looking back at your notes from this Sunday's message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

2. Do you tend to be more inclusive or exclusive when it comes to relating to others you don't know and/or who are different from you? Why do you think that is?

3. It's easy to draw circles in areas of our lives where people are either in or out of our circle. Jesus also drew circles (see question below) but always included more people than anyone else would. As you read through the following accounts, how do you see Jesus bringing someone into his circle that most people would leave out? Luke 19:1-10; Luke 18:35-42

What might be some modern-day equivalents to the people we see Jesus reach out to in the verses above? Are there any people you find it easier to bring into your circle? Are there any you tend to leave out?

4. It can be hard to avoid "playing favorites," especially when there are certain co-workers, family, children, friends, etc. who we get along with better than others. What can we learn from God's view on favoritism that could help us when we're tempted to play favorites? Acts 10:34-35 - Romans 10:12-13 - Ephesians 6:9 -

5. How do you feel you're doing in this area of not playing favorites?

6. As was mentioned on Sunday, Charles Spurgeon saw 3 main causes of division in society: The pride of race, the pride of face and place and the pride of grace. Which of these do you personally tend to have the biggest challenge with and why?

7. Although the gospel of Jesus always includes more people than anyone else would, it also draws circles. It does not teach Universalism — that everyone will be with God in the end forever. Read what Jesus says in Matthew 25:46 and Matthew 8:12, what Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 1:9 and John says in Revelation 14:11.

How could you explain Jesus' *inclusive exclusivity* to someone who believes in or is struggling with Universalism?