

Life Group Notes
Sunday 10 December 2017

Speaker: Lucy Thomas
Series: Disciples of Jesus
Title: Community – A Royal Rabble
Passages: Mark 2:13-17

The Disciples of Jesus’ sermon series seeks to highlight sharp contrasts and stark choices throughout the book of Mark. This week, we’re looking at the subject of community. This short story is a window into the larger narrative where all peoples of the earth are called back into relationship with God – his new community and where, instead of uniting around traditions, rules and culture, we **unite** around Jesus and **follow him** on a journey.

The invitation is to **all**: “to all who received him, who believed on his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” (1 John 12) A community however still has boundaries. Rowan Williams: “The boundaries are determined by what it means to be loyal to Jesus Christ.”

Lucy looked at four contrasts:

1. **Ease, safety vs awkwardness** (Unlikely people now unify around Jesus – this isn’t going to be easy. We will need to keep focussed on Jesus as King)
2. **Blindness vs seeing clearly** (How clearly do we see Jesus, ourselves and others in community? Are we being blind to ourselves – our own ‘shoulds, musts and ought’s?’)
3. **Healthy and the sick** (Do we think we are healthy when actually we are sick and in desperate need spiritually or do we recognise our deep need for help – Matthew 5 – and become well – righteous in Christ?)
4. **Exclusivity and inclusivity** (There are no insiders or outsiders any more – the Pharisees made God’s table exclusive but Jesus came to *all*, making God’s table inclusive)

Extended Table:

Scribes – Old Community	Levi – New Community
Exclusive table, EASY, safety	Inclusive table, HARD, awkward yet wonderful
Legalistic community – we earned it ourselves Think we’re reputable	Grace community – receive as gift – did not deserve or earn it Disreputable made reputable
Blind – prejudiced, hardened and ‘stiff-necked’	Is seen by Jesus (‘the God who see me’) sees Jesus, others and self-more clearly Only Jesus is the perfect judge of hearts
Sought by God – stands off	Sought by God - follows
Death – fear of contamination	Life, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit in increasing measure
I am healthy (but I’m sick)	I am sick (but I’m well – righteous in Christ)
Pride - veneer of being ok	Humility - recognise deep need
Independence	Interdependence

Choices:

1. "The unfolding of your words gives light" Psalm 119:132. In what way has this unfolding of the passage shed some light on your situation? How does this passage re-orientate you? Where is your particular current struggle in this area?
2. Where is your particular current struggle in this area? Even though we are on the 'Levi side' if we have faith in Jesus, we can become hardened by sin and unable to see ourselves and others clearly. What's your 'growing edge' at the moment? What can you celebrate in terms of how Jesus is changing you?
3. How are you in the area of extending mercy to others outside the church and how can you encourage each other on mission as well as extending the hand of friendship to 'outsiders' this Christmas time? Who will be at your table / who will you be visiting this Christmas?