



Life Group Study Notes

"Friends & Family: I See You"

Ps. James Lowe - January 29, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What's the most difficult thing you've been through?
- How do you usually respond when you attend a funeral? How does it affect you?
- If you could have a super power that could be used to help people, what would it be?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Luke 7:18-23 ESV *The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."*

The question John posed centered on whether Jesus was the special one sent by God to be the Savior and King of the world. Jesus replied by saying that the evidence that confirmed his identity as the Messiah was twofold: 1) the miraculous good deeds that he was doing, and 2) the message of God's forgiveness and his promise to fulfill all his good purposes for this world through Jesus.

Just before this took place, Luke tells us in his Gospel that Jesus had demonstrated God's heart for humanity through a great miracle.

Luke 7:11-17 ESV *Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.*

This historical event is a window into God's heart toward us. From it we can learn several important lessons.

1. Jesus sees us in our life circumstances.

- Whether our life is going incredibly well or whether we are experiencing great pain and confusion, Jesus sees us. He knows what is going on. He sees the sins we commit as well as the sins other people commit against us and our loved ones. He sees the hidden things which no one else can see. He knows the internal condition of our hearts. He knows our internal thoughts, motives, attitudes, fears, and hopes. He sees and knows everything about us. He is none other than the Son of God. He doesn't see us and remain unmoved; he sees us and is moved with concern for our condition. For even if we seem to be doing well, we still have a deep spiritual need in our hearts. We were created to know God and enjoy a deep, intimate relationship with him. But sin has severed us from him, so that we do not know him or enjoy his presence as he intended.

2. Jesus comes to save us.

- Jesus came to this earth, which he created, in order to reveal God to us and to deliver us from our sins and guilt. He didn't join human nature to his divine being so that he could see firsthand what is going on here on earth in our lives. He came so that we could see him in action and hear from him directly. Jesus demonstrated God's heart of compassion and mercy toward us in spite of our sin and guilt. What Jesus did for the widow by raising her only son from the dead, he can do for us spiritually. He himself lived a sinless life of obedience to God the Father even to the point of submitting to wrongful crucifixion at the hands of sinful men. He died in our place, suffering the punishment of death that each of us deserves for our sins. However, by his divine authority he rose from the dead, conquering sin and death on our behalf. He then ascended to heaven, from where he sent God's Spirit into the world to draw all people to himself. Everyone who turns to him as their Lord receives forgiveness from God through him and is spiritually raised from spiritual death, being made alive by the Spirit of God who comes to dwell in them.

Jesus sees us in our present condition and reaches out to us even now. All we have to do is turn to him in prayer and call upon him, asking him to fill our hearts with his Spirit and take control of our lives as we surrender to his lordship and ask him for forgiveness for not living our lives in full dedication and obedience to him.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.

- How does the knowledge that Jesus sees every part of your life affect you?
- Is there anything in your life that only Jesus can touch and restore or bring to life? What is it?
- What did Jesus do in your life when you first met him? How can you use the testimony of your encounter with Jesus to impact the lives of those around you?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for his forgiveness and continual love and provision in your life. Thank for the great hope of eternal life beyond death.
- Ask God to reveal something fresh to you that reassures you of the fact that he has his eye on you and is concerned about your life.
- Tell God afresh that you will follow him and submit to him, and ask him to intervene afresh in your life to bring new direction, provision, or anything else you need to do his will and please him.