

Simple - Studies in Mark

Session Two: Follow - Part 2

Welcome, opening prayer and worship

(5–15 minutes)

Introduction

(5 minutes)

When Jesus came to earth, He introduced an approach to God that stood in sharp contrast with the religious standards of the day. It seemed like an oversimplification. Even today, there's a tendency to complicate Jesus' simple invitation. According to Jesus, we're invited to follow. As we learn today, by simply following, we take advantage of His nature, His example, and His power to change our lives.

Bible study

(15 minutes)

Mark 10:23-31

1. In the days of the Jesus there was a firm belief that rich people must be close to God because they enjoyed the 'blessings' of wealth. What does Jesus have to say on this subject? In what way is the grace of God mentioned in this passage?
2. Peter believed that he and the other disciples had already given up all that mattered - family and property (see vs. 28). But what is the *full* cost of following Jesus? (Hint: see Mark 10:35-45) And what is the reward?

Movie Clip

(15 minutes)

Questions and discussion

(30 minutes)

1. Was there anything from the DVD that was new to you, or had an effect on you? Did you hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?
2. Does it seem unusual to you that after Jesus asked Matthew to follow him, they went to Matthew's house? Would you have expected Jesus to command Matthew to completely change his life, rather than expecting him to take baby steps? What expectations do you put on yourself? What expectations do you put on others?
3. Read Mark 2:15. Jesus liked people who were unlike him. Do you like people who are unlike you? When have you chosen to spend time with people who are unlike you?
4. Read Mark 2:16. The Pharisees couldn't understand why Jesus would choose to associate with tax collectors and sinners. When have you found yourself being judgmental of others who are different than you? In what ways do you isolate yourself from those you don't approve of?
5. Read Mark 2:17. Do you consider yourself to be healthy or sick? Do you feel that you have it all together, or do you recognize that there is something wrong? How does this affect the way you see Jesus and other people?
6. Read Mark 2:17. In Matthew it says: '...go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'' As you follow Jesus, do you emphasize mercy or sacrifice? Do you value relationships or rules? What is the difference?
7. Jesus' mission statement was to call the sinners to Him. What is your mission statement?

Prayer ministry and closing prayer

(15 minutes)