



Short Stories: LOVE

Week 1 | Short Stories | May 28

Key Focus: Love

Opening Up:

If you could ask any person living or dead one question what would you ask?
Which decade in history would you most like to visit and why?
If you could eye witness any historical event what would it be? Explain.
If you could witness and experience any future invention what would it be?
What is one thing you want accomplish with the next 10 years of your life?

Reference: Luke 7:36-50

Discuss:

1. Based upon what you know, what do you think a dinner party with Jesus would be like?
2. What would be different about your table if you partied like Jesus? Who is someone you need to invite to diner?
3. How has forgiveness changed your life? How has un-forgiveness changed your life?
4. It has been said that with Jesus it's belong, believe, and behave. And with religion it is behave, belong, and believe. How have you seen this to be true? Describe the different experiences. How does table ministry contribute to belonging?
5. In Luke 7:37 and 38, Jesus looks past the scandalous behavior of the prostitute who broke up the dinner party and sees her loving intention. In 7:34 and 35 we see that Jesus was friends with misbehaving people. What does this teach you about the ministry of Jesus? How does this idea affect your table ministry in your life?
6. Read the following quote: "The grace of God turns out to be uncomfortable and embarrassing. Jesus is socially disruptive; his radical grace disrupts social situations. And we don't like church to be disrupted. We regard marginalized people in the church as 'a problem' to be 'handled.'" Have you witnessed what Chester says in the quote? How is it true? What should be done about it? Why do you find it difficult to address this idea?
7. In Luke 7:44 Jesus asks Simon, "Do you see her?" Why is it hard to look past behavior to see the person?
8. In Luke 7:41-43 we see a connection between forgiveness and love. How does receiving forgiveness empower love? Why do self-righteous people make terrible lovers?
9. Simon loved Jesus poorly. He loved the woman poorly. Simon was self-righteous. What can you do to ensure you are less like Simon and more like the woman?
10. Pray about one missional meal that you might have this week.