**Luke V Jesus and Women**

Review: **Jesus and Discipleship**

Luke 5:1-11 Who here wants to be a disciple of Jesus—to follow the miracle-worker and great Teacher Jesus?

1. Drop your nets, leave everything to follow Jesus. (Luke 5:11)

2. Fish for people (Luke 5:10)

Luke 5:27-32 Jesus calls Levi (Matthew). Jesus calls sinners to follow him. Levi left everything and following Jesus.

Luke 5:31 Good news for (those who admit that they are) sinners.

Luke 9:57-62. 57 “I will follow you wherever you go.”

Jesus: “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” Do you know what you are getting into?

v. 61-62 I will follow you, Lord, but….

Jesus: No one who puts their hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.

Luke 14:25-35 Counting the cost of discipleship

Disciples love Jesus far more than anyone in this world.

v. 28-30 Have you counted the cost? What is the cost? v. 33 Everything!!!

v. 31-32 What are the terms? Total surrender!

Summary: If we want to be a disciple of Jesus then we must:

Leave everything behind

Fish for people

Call sinners

Put your hand to the plow and don’t look back

Count the cost

Surrender to God

**Jesus and Women**

We have already seen that in Luke, Jesus is revealed as Messiah through his ministry to the outcast, the disrespected, the poor, women, “sinners,” foreigners and Samaritans.

Luke gives prominence and respect to women. He lists at least 9 women in Jesus’ life not mentioned in the other three gospels.

Elizabeth, Mary’s cousin

Ana the prophet

Widow of Nain Luke 7:12-15

Woman who anoints Jesus’ feet Luke 7:36-50

Women who supported Jesus financially Joanna, wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household, Susanna Luke 8:1-3 These are prominent women.

Crippled woman “daughter” of Abraham healed on the Sabbath Luke 13:10-17

The poor widow Luke 21:1-4

Joanna, the mother of James Luke 24:10, 8:3

To us this sticks out, but in the Jewish or the Greek world this is truly remarkable.

The rabbis had a saying: “Blessed are you O God, King of the Universe, Who has not made me… a Gentile, a slave or a woman.”

In the book of Luke (and I assume in reality, as it is inspired) in Jesus’ ministry the women are always “good guys” and the men, by comparison in context, are always the “bad guys.” Why is this? Is this because men are worse? Is it because women, as a whole, exemplify more godly qualities? Or is Jesus (Luke?) trying to make a point?

I have heard “Jesus was a man’s man.” Do you agree with this? Why yes and why no?

Women are especially prominent surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus

Daughters of Jerusalem lament the death of Jesus Luke 23:27-29 Women were the chief witnesses and comforters of Jesus at the crucifixion Luke 23:49,

Women were the first to witness and announce the resurrection Luke 23:55-24:11 Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James and the others. But… they did not believe the women. Peter gets some cred here.

Women found in other gospels but highlighted much more in Luke:

Mary, mother of Jesus

Mary and Martha Luke 10:38-42

Woman healed of bleeding Luke 8:43-48

Women play leading roles in his birth and leading roles in his death and resurrection.

This is not just in Luke. John 4 Samaritan woman. John 8 and woman caught in adultery.

Application: We in the ICOC need to spend a lot more time praising and listening to our sisters. Do not make decisions without listening to them. We have not heard the voices of women enough.

We will not have women elders or preachers, but outside of that, women ought to have a equal place in everything.

So, let’s look at Jesus interacting with women

Luke 7:11-15 Widow at Nain

The only son of his mother, and she was a widow.

Can you imagine the scene. A woman has lost her husband. She is alone, without protection, no opportunity for remarriage, no opportunity for a career, nearly cut off from family. Then her only child dies. She is totally bereft.

Jesus walks into this scene. What happened? v. 13 His heart went out to her.

Jesus, like many men, could not stand to see a woman cry. A man’s man???

Jesus: Young man, get up!!! Imagine the emotion of this moment.

Jesus did not need to preach a sermon in Nain.

Good news for the poor, Freedom for the captives, sight for the blind, release for the oppressed, forgiveness for sinners.

Let’s add to that. Love for the outcast and for women. Compassion for the grieving.

v. 17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

Imagine if they had Instagram, facebook and twitter!!!

Luke 7:36-50 Jesus anointed by a “sinful” woman.

Read Luke 7:36-43 for now.

[aside: The Catholic Church since the 6th century, have claimed that this woman is one and the same with Mary Magdalene, which is an attempted slam on women in general]

Luke 7:36 Q: Why did Jesus accept this invitation? Jesus was not unwilling to hang out with the rich and with Pharisees.

Luke 7:37-38 Q: What can you see about this woman? Why is she doing this?

She knowns almost instinctually that Jesus offers hope for sinners, the outcast, women, the oppressed and the poor. This women is in five categories!!!!

Luke 7:39 Q: How would you describe the Pharisee’s attitude? (notice the irony: “this man” is indeed a prophet and he definitely knew who was doing this)

Is he right about the woman? Who did people blame for prostitution?

Do you think that men bear any of the “fault” in prostitution? Hmmm….

What about all the sinful men who keep her employed?

This woman is oppressed, and all the Pharisee can think of is how sinful she is.

Q: What about you? How do you view “sinners?” With compassion?

I don’t like being around gay people. They make me uncomfortable. Hmmm…

Would Jesus hang out with gay people?

Luke 7:40-43 Q: What is Jesus’ point?

Q: How sinful do you feel you are? Q: Who finds it hardest to repent? a. hardened sinner b. run of the mill sinner c. relatively righteous person Why?

Correct answer: The one who recognizes how truly sinful they are is the one who will find it easiest to repent.

v. 43 Notice the tone: I suppose… He is only admitting this because of the crowd.

Read Luke 7:44-50

[providing water for foot-cleaning and a kiss were standard for guests in Jewish homes]

Simon: Look at this woman. He had totally written her off!

White person: Look at the black man in a hoodie, with his pants halfway down to his knees Look at him.

Wealthy person: look at the migrant farm worker.

Old person: look at the young person.

Educated person: look at the not-so-educated. Right into the eye.

What do you see? A human being!!!!

Should we sin a lot so we can be forgiven a lot? No!!! That is not what he is saying. Don’t you dare look down on those less sinful than you.

Remain in touch with your sin.

Key verse of this sermon and memory verse for the week:

But whoever [recognizes that they have] been forgiven little loves little.”

Can I add Whoever [recognizes that they have been] forgiven much love much.

v. 48 Your sins are forgiven.

Q: Were her sins forgiven:

a. because she loved much? (7:47) or

b. because of her faith? 7:50

Answer: Her faith led her to love, because she believed she would be forgiven (v. 47)

Luke 7:49-50 Who is this man? Jesus: Don’t look at me. Look at her. Look at her faith. He is focusing attention away from himself.

Luke 10:38-42 Mary and Martha The village is Bethany. Lazarus lives here too.

Martha opened up her home—a good thing.

But Martha was “distracted” from Jesus. Not a good thing.

Martha, Martha, Mary has chosen what is better.

Here we see the intimate friendship between Jesus and these two beloved women.

Conclusion: When in doubt do not get distracted, but sit at Jesus’ feet. Service of others is REALLY important in Christianity, but paying attention to Jesus is and always will be of first importance.

Luke 21:1-4 The poor widow. Perhaps the best example of how Luke points out the greater spirituality of women compared to men.

But we men are competitive, right? Let’s not get beaten by our wives/sisters!

The woman puts in two lepta—small copper coins. In today’s terms, it is more like $2 than 2 cents.

Jesus: Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.

Jesus is watching when you write out that check.

He is more interested in the heart than the number you type,

but the number you type tells him something about your heart.

This woman, like the widow at Nain, is Jesus’ favorite kind of person to praise and point out:

Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, freedom to the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, release for the oppressed, forgiveness for sinners love for the outcast and women.

This woman is poor, an outcast (as a widow), oppressed, and, obviously a woman.

Q: What have you been “putting in” to the kingdom of God? She put in, literally, all she had. She had a better excuse than you or I do!!!!

Some of us have chronic disease. We hardly have any energy. Jesus understands. Use what energy you have.

Some of us are so ridiculously busy taking care of our family, we hardly have any time left to serve God.

Use what time you have (and maybe try to change your circumstances)

Summary:

Jesus has a radical level of respect, love, and compassion for women. Jesus loves the oppressed and women in our society are relatively oppressed. He showed favoritism to them because society did the opposite.

In Luke, many women set great examples for us of piety, faith, trust, generosity. Q: What woman comes to mind for you?

Mary? Elizabeth? Widow at Nain, the sinful woman, the poor widow? the women who served Jesus at the cross?

Jesus has a special love in his heart for those who understand how sinful they are. Those who understand they are forgiven much love much.

Let us give, not out of our riches, but out of our poverty.