

The Beautiful Life Series

Small Group Teaching Tool



Weekend message preached by Jonathan Rue
Sermon text:
Teaching tool text: Matthew 9:1-13
The Beautiful Life Series
5.30.10

SUNDAY NIGHT SYNOPSIS

We are continuing in our Beautiful Life Series on the Sermon on the Mount. Jonathan talked about what it means to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world”. We are to be a people in Jesus who live out our daily existence preserving the truth and showing love to the world around us.

TONIGHT’S BIG IDEA

We are going to look at Jesus, who is our model and teacher in every way, and examine how he lived in the beautiful tension between preserving truth and loving extravagantly. The people of His Kingdom stand out in the world when they interact in this way. They refuse to go along with the crowd and diminish the truth and they love in a way that impossible to overlook.

GETTING STARTED (20 minutes)

- Q1. What’s one of the most loving acts anyone has ever done for you?! Share the story.
- Q2. Do you have any funny stories when you’ve been busted for lying? Share with the group.

GETTING INTO THE TEXT (25 minutes)

Tonight, we are going to look at a passage of Scripture that shows Jesus boldly speaking truth to the religious and sinners alike, showing what His Kingdom of Love is really like.

VS: Read Matthew 9:1-13 (TNIV)

- Q1. What act of love is demonstrated in these opening verses? (*the friends bring the man to Jesus AND Jesus heals him*)
- Q2. Who were the people around him and what was their response to his healing? (*The good, religious people who were trying to protect the truth*) Why were they so upset? (*Hint: it was known by the Jews that only God can forgive sins*)
- Q3. How did Jesus respond to them? Does his response seem a bit harsh? Why do you think he was so frustrated with these religious people? What declaration does he confidently make in verses 4-6?
- Q4. How do you think this healing, this act of love changed this man’s life? Reflect on this together?
- Q5. What is the response of the crowd? What does this reveal about their Hearts?



- Q6.** Who is the man that Jesus goes to next? What does it mean to be a tax collector during this time (*it basically means that an individual has turned on his people and aligned with the Roman government to take their money. Tax collectors were known as being the most greedy, selfish, and disloyal individuals*)?
- Q7.** What is strange about this encounter in verse 9 (really try to picture the scene as it unfolds)?
- Q8.** How does Jesus and his disciples interact with these people? Why is this so strange?
- Q9.** How do the religious people respond? Do you have a group or a type of person that you would respond to in a similar way (a group that Christians are not *supposed* to interact with)? Do you find yourself hanging out with people who don't know Jesus with your friends who do know Jesus? How do you think Jesus would challenge your thinking?
- Q10.** How does Jesus respond in verses 12 and 13? What does this mean

Ministry Time. Break down into groups, Confess to each other and pray for each other:

-What are ways that you find yourself being judgmental and/or self righteous toward other people?

-What is an area of your life that you need God's truth—is there any area of your life where you are lying, ashamed, or hiding?

-Who are the people that God is calling you to be salt and light to in your life? Who is he wanting you to love and share about your life in Jesus that is available to them?