

Small Group Questions

Week of Sunday, October 1st, 2023

Launch

Discuss hobbies and passions that have become obsessions – what groups and communities did they take you to? Where were those communities/groups healthy or unhealthy?

Observe – Read Luke 6:27-36

1. The Bible is generally written into a Middle Eastern honor/shame society or culture. Honor/shame cultures are marked by patriarchy & rank leaning heavily on honor and esteem. If that is the case, which specific parts of this passage would be particularly challenging to Jesus listeners of the time?
2. Compare and contrast verses 29-31 with verses 32-35a – list some of the sacrifices being commanded in these verses?
3. Verses 35b-36 – How does Jesus draw out a new principal or idea from an honor/shame society in this verse?

Process

1. Luke 6:27-28 – List the 4 ways Jesus states we are to treat our enemies? What is the assumption made in these verses when it comes to the proximity of those we are in conflict with?
2. Discuss the non-retaliatory nature of what Jesus is saying here with what the Bible says about the nature of and character of God in Isaiah 1:17 and Isaiah 61:8? How would you reconcile this? What is Jesus saying about making your response your responsibility?
3. Read Luke 6:32-35a and Peter's instructions to the church in I Peter 4:8 – what are the practical outcomes of using sacrificial actions and deeds verses words and

arguments? How would the outcomes form a different kind of community of people on earth?

Respond

1. Tribalism is defined as loyalty to a group marked by strong negative feelings towards opposing groups. Exaltation of one over the other. Discuss what this looks like in our culture, how they form enemies and why the church should look different based on this passage?
2. Luke 6:32-35a essentially is a challenge to those enemies of my time, convenience and ideologies. Why would engaging with difficult people keep us from forming tribes? Discuss any examples where you moved towards conflict and came out with a new perspective or understanding of another person or group?
3. Read Matthew 9:9-13. Where was Jesus and where were the Pharisees in this passage? What does this demonstrate about Jesus' concern for his reputation? What walls was Jesus concerned with breaking down & do we share those concerns? What neighbors, family or acquaintances have we pushed aside rather than pushing into for the sake of making an enemy a friend?