

A Beautiful Mess

Make Jesus Tangible (Week 4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Ideas

When we Make Jesus Tangible, we become a part of the movement of God.

Key Scriptures

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question:

"Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it? The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:25-29

"Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. The Man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same." Luke 10:36-37

Too often the church acts like an institution concerned with the comfort of its members rather than a movement mobilizing people to meet the needs of others.

The church is a movement when we:

1. **Take** our cues from Jesus.

...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfected of our faith. Hebrews 12:2

2. **Trust** the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:25

3. **Tell** His story with our lives.

So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. James 2:17 NLT

Start talking.

- What ways has the local church fallen into the trap of being an institution?
- How are institutions different than movements?
- What are about institutions are sometimes appealing?

Start thinking.

- Read Luke 10:25-29. Why did Jesus turn the question back on the man?
- How does the man's response reveal his institutional mindset?
- Read Luke 10:36-37. How did Jesus reply to the man's answer? How does that inform your understanding of faithfulness to God's mission?
- Read James 2:17. How should our faith inform our actions?

Start sharing.

- What are ways you have perhaps settled for the institution of church rather than joining Christ in his movement through the local church?
- Why is church as an institution off putting for those outside the church?

Start doing.

- Describe one thing you will do to Make Jesus Tangible for others this week.

Closing prayer.

Jesus forgive us for settling for the institutions of men and women rather than pushing forward the movement of the Gospel through the local church. Help us to not get stuck behind great sounding faith statements, but rather to push forward building bridges into the lives of others. Help us to be known for what we are for, rather than what we are against. Give us courage to in all things preach the Gospel, and when absolutely necessary...use words.