

The Art of Following Jesus

Part 7: How to party like Jesus.

Luke 19:1-10 - [Watch online](#)

Summary:

To make the world a better place. We need to eat and drink with more people... just like Jesus.

Main points:

[00:47] Following Jesus isn't about what we have to do. It's about who we get to be.

[01:30] Christian hospitality is the art and ministry of hanging out for the Kingdom of God

[03:23] Jesus didn't just say he loved and accepted people, his actions proved it.

[05:25] When we are hospitable we are giving people an opportunity to be loved, served, and ministered to by the Holy Spirit.

[06:15] When we practice hospitality we learn to see and treat people as opportunities to give Jesus' love.

[07:11] Eating with someone conveys we accept them and identify with them

[07:55] God chose to identify with us by becoming one of us and being with us.

[09:16] When you know Jesus identifies with you you can't help but want to identify with him.

[17:15] Hospitality forces us to change our schedules to align our lives to the purpose of Jesus: other people.

[18:57] Hospitality allows us to discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers... together.

Invitation:

[15:48] Eat with at least 3 people a month.

Discussion Questions:

1. We've already covered a few practices in following Jesus (silence, study, generosity, etc.). What have you tried? Ignored so far?
2. Jon described hospitality as the art and ministry of hanging out with people. How would you define hospitality? When has someone's hospitality made an impact on you?
3. Reread the story of Zaccheus in Luke 19 and Jon's main points. What do you notice or wonder about?
4. Who do you think you can be hospitable to this month? What barriers might you need to overcome in order to be accepting and truly hospitable?
5. How can your group pray for you this week?

Transcript:

INTRO: You're great. You know that? You're probably pretty cool to hang out with. I'm pretty sure when you let yourself you're pretty fun. And do you know that that capacity of fun and joy is a direct reflection of the God who made you in his image?

AND... that God can specifically use that reflection to change the world one person at a time? It's true and it's amazing.

So let's talk about it together.

WE: So often we think following Jesus is a list of do's and don'ts... or more of an individualist moral exercise that sometimes gives us a bit of help along the way.

But in reality... **Following Jesus isn't about what we have to do. It's about who we get to be.**

Jesus promised his followers a full life... a life where our burdens are lifted and we experience true life.

But not about "just me and Jesus" ... it's a full life (whether extravert or introvert) being with other people.

- Sharing the joys, struggles, laughter, and work of life together.

And one of the best ways we get to experience and discover this full true life is by practicing what the BW's call hospitality.

Xian hospitality is the art and ministry of hanging out for the KoG

It's something Jesus did ALL the time... and it's something that has been central to the lives of his followers ever since...

GOD: Luke... Jesus on his way to Jerusalem to be executed and defeat death.

Luke 19:1-4 One of my favorite passages b/c it's about a short guy.

Tax collector info.

- Worked for Rome
- Considered traitors- not allowed in synagogue
- Zach in charge of them. Known and hated.

Best way to read BW's is to ask Q's... Why did he want to get a look at Jesus?

Jesus had a reputation by this point... even had a former tax collector in his entourage.

- This was a rabbi who offered love to the hated and acceptance to the rejected

How did Zach know this? **Jesus didn't just say he loved and accepted people, his actions proved it.**

And Jesus didn't disappoint

V. 5 Moral of the story... to be like Jesus, invite yourself to dinner at rich people's houses.

When I read this the question that came to my mind was why MUST he be a guest of Zach's?

Could've said, "I'd like to be" or "Hey would it be cool if?"

Maybe he was hungry and traveling and needed a place to stay...

It's the same word and phrasing he used for his purpose... **Luke 4:43, 9:22**

Being a guest at Zach's house was imperative for Jesus to fulfill his purpose.

So I don't think this MUST is for Jesus... Jesus MUST be a guest of Zach's FOR Zach.

"Zach you need me to be a guest at your house, you need to hang out with me... you need what being with me will give you..."

"You need to be accepted, you need to know you are loved, you need others to see that you are accepted and loved by me."

And that's why hospitality has been a must for JF's from the beginning...

If you are a JF... Jesus has given you the HS of God to live in you. Which means whenever you are talking with and eating with someone you are bringing the HS to talk with and eat with that person.

- **When we are hospitable we are giving people an opportunity to be loved, served, and ministered to by the HS.**

And what was Zach's response? "Oh uh... yeah I'm too busy... I've got a massage today actually..."

V. 6 People who were nothing like Jesus loved being around Jesus.

- He didn't make them feel condemned, judged, unworthy, secular
- When Jesus was with people they felt peace, joy, and love.

Why? B/c Jesus genuinely liked them

- Loves people... all people
- He actually liked hanging out with them and even more... he was FOR them,

When we practice hospitality we learn to see and treat people as opportunities to give Jesus' love.

But it's not all sunshine and daisies...

V. 7 Why are they mad?

Think about it... if you are going to sit down and eat with someone, you are showing and saying, "These are my people."

- Cafeteria/Lunch Tables in school.
- If they are your people it means you get them, you accept them, you are with them, you are FOR them.

Eating with someone conveys we accept them and identify with them

And instead of preaching AT Zach, publicly condemning/judging him or speaking truth in love to him, pointing out his sin...

Jesus identifies with him... Jesus shows that he is FOR Zach before Zach is for anything Jesus is for.

And throughout the bio's of Jesus we see him eat a lot... with whom?

EVERYONE... he eats with rich tax collectors, he eats with poor fisherman, he eats with religious leaders, he eats with the rejected and abused prostitutes.

Jesus identifies with all of us.

In fact it's the point of him coming to earth... **God chose to identify with us by becoming one of us and being with us.**

That offended people then and it offends people when we do it now.

"How can you accept that person, that type of person, how can you identify with them... why don't you call out (what I think is) their sin?"

Who have we rejected that Jesus would have invited to dinner?

How about we first focus on loving the actual person in front of us... and let the HS take care of the rest?

"But but... that's not what Jesus did"... Really?

V. 8 Jesus didn't preach to Zach. He didn't "speak the truth in love." He didn't make sure Zach checked all the right boxes and had perfect theology... He just loved him and showed him he was accepted

And what happened... simply by experiencing the love and acceptance of Jesus, Zach's heart was transformed.

When you know Jesus identifies with you you can't help but want to identify with him.

So is there never a place to confront people and gently show them the choices they are making and the path they are on is damaging?

Of course there is, but those instances need to be rare, prayerful, and done in an already established relationship of love and acceptance.

Jesus then says why he lived this way and identified with those he did...

V. 9-10 The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.... Those who have wandered away from their Heavenly Father.

When a child is lost... Do you lecture them b/c they weren't paying attention, give them a list of rules so they know how bad they are... or do you simply, kindly, deliberately, and eagerly help them find their parent?

Jesus came to seek and save the lost... this is one of the 3 verses we have where Jesus said "The Son of Man came..."

In Mark we saw that he also said the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.

The first two say **why** he came... to seek and save the lost and to serve and give his life... his mission.

But **how** did he come? What did he do... What method did he use to seek and save and to serve?

He answers that too... **Luke 7:34** - Eating and drinking with people.

Literally sitting down and sharing meals with people... showing them they were accepted and loved and cared for. Seen and listened to.

So much so that his enemies tried to discredit him as a glutton and a drunk.

- "This guy is always partying. He can't be from God. God would be as stuffy and judgmental as us perfect ones."

And if we want to follow him we have to do the same... we have to practice hospitality. The art and ministry of hanging out with people.

I don't think we truly grasp how important and central this idea was in Jesus' plan to bring the KoG to earth.

He is constantly eating with people... at Matthew the tax collectors house, with the Pharisees, feeds 5000, the last supper, he eats when he first appears to his disciples to prove that He's alive...

In fact after he rose it wasn't until he ate with two of his disciples that they even recognized him

- **Luke 24:30-35**

Jesus made breakfast and ate with Peter and John after Peter denied him to show Peter that he was still part of his plan to reach the world.

AND... What is the one thing Jesus told us to do in memory of him? Eat bread and drink wine.

Isn't that awesome... he was accused of being a glutton and drunk and he's like, "Oh yeah? Don't forget it! That's how I want to be remembered."

And do you know how Jesus chose to describe the ultimate culmination of God restoring his people to himself?

Rev. 19:6-9 A wedding feast! Representing the fulfillment of God's promises and the joy of being with him forever.

Pastor and author Michael Frost said... *Eating has been a central Christian practice since the beginning of our movement* and *The table ought to be the primary symbol of the xian gathering. It represents hospitality, inclusivity, generosity, grace.*

Food equalizes. It shows we are all human and we are sharing this life giving process together.

It's why we have snacks after our Sunday in-person gatherings.

- It gives us an opportunity to identify with each other, to look each other in the eye and listen and talk and tell stories.
- To connect with old friends and welcome new friends into these life-giving relationships.

It's why we encourage our CG's to have some type of drink and often food at their gatherings.

Why alliances work best when there is drink or food involved.

- Almost every meaningful alliance I have had has been over food or drink.

This is why I still dream of CCC one day operating a coffee house and/or taphouse. Providing our community a chance to eat and drink together for the purpose of bringing the KoG to earth now.

What better way to continue Jesus' mission than continuing with his method... eating and drinking.

YOU: So here's my invitation... As part of being a light to the world... Start making it a habit to **eat with at least 3 people a month.**

- 1 from CCC
- 1 not
- 1 dealer's choice ♣️

You don't have to make it elaborate or expensive. You can if you want.

You can do it in your home or in public

It can be breakfast, lunch, dinner... ☕ and a 🍩 ... or a 🍺 and 🍟.

Can be one on one, a group, families.

And what do you do during this time?

- Eat and drink
- Talk... and listen
- Share stories, jokes, hopes, dreams, fears, disappointments.
- Learn about each other. Ask questions. Be real.

Am I saying get plastered and gorge yourself? No... I'm saying model moderation and the joy we can have by being in control of our bodies.

"OK, Jon but who has time for this?" Great question. For different phases of life this might look different for sure.

But no matter what our lives look like... **Hospitality forces us to change our schedules to align our lives to the purpose of Jesus: other people.**

Following Jesus isn't about what we say we believe it's about what we do with what we believe.

Following Jesus is supposed to change your life... and sometimes those changes take purposeful decisions to do something different with our time

WE: Jesus said we are a light on a hill... he tells us to go and make disciples... but it's not an overbearing command... It's not drudgery... It's not guilt inducing hard work...

It can simply look like sharing a meal or a drink with someone, listening to them, and sharing your stories with them.

Our lives seem to be getting more and more disconnected from each other. People need to know they are accepted and loved.

Just think of the good we can do by physically sitting across a table from someone and looking them in the eye, purposely listening to them, and sharing your stories with them?

To be like Jesus we need to practice doing what Jesus did.

He ate and identified with Zacheus and we offers to eat and identify with you! **Rev. 3:20.**

And he invites us to join him in eating with and identifying with others...

The Son of Man came eating and drinking to seek and save the lost... and we have the privilege of following our master by eating and drinking to continue his mission of bringing the KoG to the world now.

Hospitality allows us to discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers... together.

So cheers! Jesus loves you!