

Being a Redemptive Community, Part Two



So, I'm not giving a full account of the sermon here. I will give the highlights with which you might dream or ponder or get aggravated.

Here's the setting... Isn't it amazing, the way that Jesus so often was in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong person? He just had to eat with sinners and talk with Samaritan women, and hang with the "wrong" folks. What was he thinking?

I believe he was thinking that he was in the business of connecting with people, not rejecting people... he would risk the infamy of association with the wrong types of people for their sake. Is that an example we can follow?

not rejection, but connection

- get to know a "wrong" person, just maintain fidelity to yourself & God
- matt 9:11- I've come to call sinners, not the righteous
- matt 11:18- called me a glutton and a drunkard
- john 4:27- what are you doing, talking to her?
- Peter has to learn the lesson, Acts chapter 10 - don't think of them as "unclean," I made them!

Jonah... ***"getting it, but not getting it!"*** Jonah is a great example of what we are not called to be. He was so painfully self-righteous that he didn't want to be caught anywhere near the people of Nineveh, and even wanted them to die in ignorance of God's will. Go read Jonah's short saga if it's been a while... chapter 3 highlights the anger of Jonah at the thought of them receiving God's grace. It's really an incredible story, even without the great fish. Jonah knew all about God, but he had desire to connect that knowledge with the "wrong" people.

We spend too much time trying to separate ourselves from the world. Jesus was able to move through life, keeping full fidelity to himself and God, but totally immersed in the lives of the folks around him. That's "incarnation." We are called to no less. We are called to be that kind of "fully present."