

JESUS MINGLED WITH PEOPLE



Lesson 6 for
August 6, 2016

CHRIST'S METHOD

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

E.G.W. (The Ministry of Healing, p. 143)



He mingled with people
as One who desired
their good



He sympathized with
people



He ministered to their
needs



He won
people’s
confidence



Then He bade them,
“Follow Me”

This week we studied how Jesus mingled with the people He wanted to save. Then we’ll see how to follow His method and imitate Him.

SEEKING THE LOST

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?” (Luke 15:4)

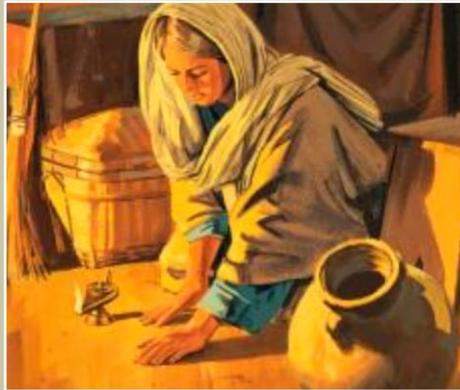


Jesus was accused of mingling with sinners (Luke 15:2). He then told three parables to explain how God loves us and how He wants everyone to be saved.



Luke 15:3-7

**The lost and found
sheep**



Luke 15:8-10

**The lost and found
coin**



Luke 15:11-32

**The lost and found
son**

Jesus took every opportunity to lead the sinners to salvation, either He sought them (like the Samaritan woman) or they came to Him (like Zacchaeus).

EATING WITH SINNERS

“Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” (Matthew 9:11)

The Pharisees didn’t want to become unclean by touching the sinners. On the contrary, Jesus mingled with the people by sharing His social life with them.

When they reproached Him, Jesus had to explain a main pillar of the Jewish faith to Israel’s leaders: “For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.” (Hosea 6:6).

Appearances and ceremonies cannot be more important than how he treat others.

In order to achieve that, we must be humble and let the Holy Spirit lead us to be merciful to those who fail.



“How many of the wandering ones have you, reader, sought for and brought back to the fold? When you turn from those who seem unpromising and unattractive, do you realize that you are neglecting the souls for whom Christ is seeking? At the very time when you turn from them, they may be in the greatest need of your compassion. [...] Many among them might be won for Christ.

[...] These erring ones may appear hard and reckless; but if they had received the same advantages that others have had, they might have revealed far more nobility of soul, and greater talent for usefulness. Angels pity these wandering ones. Angels weep, while human eyes are dry and hearts are closed to pity.

O the lack of deep, soul-touching sympathy for the tempted and the erring! O for more of Christ’s spirit, and for less, far less, of self!”

MINGLING WISELY

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one." (John 17:15-16)



When the people of God mingled with the world in the past, they ended up taking part in their sins (Numbers 25:1-3).

On the other hand, are we doing any good if we hide from other people so we are not contaminated by their ways?

We are called to mingle with the world like salt. How can we do that without losing our flavor?

We must know the limits we shouldn't cross when building relationships with non-believers.



The Holy Spirit will help us to find common interests that will guide us to relate to others without renouncing our principles.



WITHIN A PERVERSE GENERATION

“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” (Philippians 2:13-15)

We live in a corrupted world. We may be tempted to stay in our own spiritual comfort zone and become “spiritual introverted.”

Nevertheless, we are called to be light that lead people to God. We’ll never be light by shutting ourselves away.

We must trust God’s power that acts in us, and share His message with this perverse generation.



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Which one of these churches is fulfilling our mission in a better way?

1. The Church **IN** the community.
 They serve the parishioners and don't mingle with the community.
2. The Church **TOWARDS** the community.
 They offer what they think the community needs. They might be wrong about their needs.
3. The Church **WITH** the community.
 They analyze the needs of the community and discuss how to fulfil those needs with them.

“The believers at Antioch realized that God was willing to work in their lives “both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13. Living, as they were, in the midst of a people who seemed to care but little for the things of eternal value, they sought to arrest the attention of the honest in heart, and to bear positive testimony concerning Him whom they loved and served. In their humble ministry they learned to depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit to make effective the word of life. And so, in the various walks of life, they daily bore testimony of their faith in Christ.

The example of the followers of Christ at Antioch should be an inspiration to every believer living in the great cities of the world today. [...] As such workers endeavor to win souls to Jesus, they will find that many who never could have been reached in any other way are ready to respond to intelligent personal effort.”