



Session 6: Jesus: Challenging the Religious

IN Introduction

DISCUSSION:

QUESTION: *Have you ever held convictions so deep that you have had to make a stand and radically challenge the status quo? What did you do? What was the response?*

Luke (in chapters 5-6) has collected a series of Jesus incidents - these all form a pattern of Jesus challenging the religious institutions & leaders. He is reframing what has gone before in the light of the New Kingdom.

UP Explore

Let's look at 4 of these incidents and ask these 4 questions:

1. What was the situation?
2. What was the law that Jesus challenged?
3. How did Jesus reinterpret the law?
4. Where does Jesus' priority lie?

READING 1: 5v12-16

Jesus heals a man with leprosy. An *unclean untouchable* - people would be defiled by if they were to come into contact with him.

READING 2: 5v17-26

Jesus heals a paralytic. But rather than offering just physical healing, Jesus pronounces that the man's sins are forgiven. It is only after Jesus authority is challenged that he offers physical healing, a demonstration of his authority.

READING 3: 5v27-32

Jesus calls a Tax Collector and eats with a bunch of sinners. In the New Living Translation these people are called 'Scum'!

READING 4: 6v1-11

Two incidents back to back... eating on the Sabbath, and then healing on the Sabbath. Jesus seems to be intentionally challenging the Pharisees understanding of the law.

OUT Impact

As you think about your day to day lives, work, home, community, family etc. As you reflect on Jesus interactions above think about the following:

Where do we need our thinking challenged?

How can we demonstrate the love & grace of God in our day to day lives?