

# Jesus: Love Alive

## Practicing the Way series: Honoring the Image of God in All People

Sunday message from April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **Jesus shows us, through his life, what it looks like to honor the image of God in all people.**
  - ❖ Read [Matthew 15.29-39](#). What do you notice in Jesus' words and actions toward people in this passage?
  - ❖ What might be the significance in Jesus sitting down (v.29)? How might this action of Jesus impact your pace of life and source of identity?
- **Jesus welcomed the outcast of society and allowed them to sit at his feet (v.30).**
  - ❖ Jesus is a safe place for those who were marginalized.
  - ❖ How does this truth impact your view of yourself? Your actions toward others?
- **Jesus is a safe place for your pain (not just the pain of others).**
  - ❖ What might this mean for you, personally, where you're at right now?
- **One of the greatest struggles in the Christian life is when our lived pain doesn't match our understanding of Jesus.**
  - ❖ How have you experienced this struggle in your life?
  - ❖ How might the people of God fit into and affect this struggle?
- **Each of us need someone to bear witness to our pain as a part of the healing process.**
  - ❖ How did the crowd bear witness to the pain of others (v.30)? How might this have impacted their worship (v.31)?
  - ❖ What might bearing witness to the pain of another look like in your life? How might this impact your view of the work of God (the good news)? How might it impact your worship?
- **The crowd participated in the good news of God by bringing those in the margins to Jesus.**
  - ❖ What might this have looked like for them? Imagine yourself as one of the crowd in the story.
  - ❖ What might participating in the good news (work of God) in a similar way look like in your life?
  - ❖ What was the "unnoticed" cost to the crowd for participating in the work of God? What might the cost be to you? (Consider who might be "unclean" today and the impact of your connection with them.)
- **Everything Jesus was doing in this story was because He had compassion on the people (v.32).**
  - ❖ How does Jesus' compassion as the foundation of work He did impact the work? How might it have impacted the disciples?
  - ❖ How would acting from a foundation of God's love (not your own) impact your participation in God's work among people? What difference would it make specifically, practically?
- **This story is not just about one meal. It is about the overflowing love of God—love that is good news to us physically, emotionally, mentally.**
  - ❖ Read [Matthew 15 verses 31 and 37](#) again slowly. Consider the impact of Jesus' actions beyond that particular moment. What does this show you about the love of God?
- **Jesus Himself is the Good News.**
  - ❖ How do you see this in Matthew 15? What impact does this have on your mind, heart, life?
  - ❖ What might God be speaking to you and/or inviting you into as a result of this message?