



Who is Jesus?, Pt. 2: Dangerous Company

Jesus talked a lot about love and forgiveness, but his message was more bold than what people think. He was an equal opportunity offender that challenged the actions of every group during his ministry. And we learn through the scriptures that anytime the Kingdom of God clashes with the kingdoms of this world it is dangerous and costly.

Bottom Line: Following Jesus is dangerous and costly.

Discussion Questions

1. When people think of Jesus often times they think about this really nice guy who walked around saying comforting things. Growing up, what type of person did you believe Jesus to be? Is this different than what you believe now? Why?
2. **Read Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 4:17 and Matthew 6:9-10.** What message was Jesus giving to the world? What was the tone of the message?
3. In Jesus' day, there were several different groups that had ideas about the coming of God's Kingdom (Zealots, Pharisees, Scribes, Essenes, and Sadducees). Discuss the characteristics of these groups. In present day, are there still groups like this? Discuss.
4. The verses in **Matthew 5:39, Matthew 4:41, Matthew 5:9, Matthew 9:9-13, and Matthew 22:15-21** all describe a response Jesus had to the challenge made by the different groups listed in question 3. Read each verse and discuss the reactions each group may have had when Jesus challenged them.
5. When Jesus started building his community, he selected a diverse set of people (Zealot, tax collector, Pharisee, & a Samaritan woman). Discuss why this was important. What risk did these individuals take for the sake of God's kingdom?
6. Describe a time when you felt the calling of God on your life? Did you listen? What was the outcome? Does the risk associated with God's calling on your life affect your decision to follow this calling?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?