

JUSTICE MEDITATION - engaging Jesus

JESUS INCLUDES THE OUTCASTS

People and communities who easily cross over the line from insulation and self-obsession to solidarity, empathy and compassion with those violated by the lack of justice will fuel true justice in our world. Jesus spoke about coming to the broken, lived among the broken, and identified with those cast aside. Do we see these themes in Scripture? When is the last time you looked soberly at the words and actions of Christ among those hungry, sick, dying, alienated, and homeless. You are encouraged to interact with a few of these select passages. You may want to refer to the Contemplative section to familiarize yourself with imaginative and prayerful ways to read these stories (Imaginative Meditation and Lectio Divina),.

The hope in interacting with these stories is that we would be shaped by the overwhelming love, compassion, and care given to those who had been pushed out away from their access to God. In the new testament culture being sick, disabled, and unclean meant no temple access. The temple, in those days, was the equivalent of being with God. Jesus' actions to restore health by touch, being present in the "marginalized" circles was saying something big about the Kingdom of God. He was saying in every action and encounter – that those who have been treated as last and less valuable are the ones who are closest to the open doors to God.

What people, what cultures, what individuals, what lifestyles, what circumstances – have left people with the feeling that they could have no access to God? See, in these meditations, the way God is available – even identifying uniquely with them.

STORIES

- * GETTING ACCESS TO GOD, CREATIVELY [Luke 5:17-26]
- * JESUS EMBODIES THE KINGDOM [Luke 4:16-22]
- * CHRIST IN THE SHOES OF THE MOST BROKEN [Matthew 25:31-46]
- * REACHING UP TO EXEC [Luke 19:1-10]
- * A PARTY FOR CROOKS, WHORES, AND THEIVES [Matthew 9:9-13]
- * THE CARING OUTCAST [Luke 10:30-37]
- * JESUS AS BARTENDER? [John 2:1-11]
- * THE BETHESDA HEALINGS [John 5:1-9]
- * THE CRAZY MAN IN THE GRAVEYARD [Mark 5:1-20]
- * DIRT IN YOUR EYE [John 9:1-12]
- * HANDS ON HEALING [Mark 7:31-37]
- * FEEDING, BECAUSE THEY ARE HUNGRY [Mark 8:1-21]

QUESTIONS TO ASK OF THE STORIES

- * Who was found in need in this passage?
- * What needs did you see?
- * How did Jesus approach the need?
- * How did you perceive Jesus' reaction to the need?
- * How have you been AWAKENED to people in need/needs around you?
- * Who in our community is stirred by similar needs/people in need?
- * How have you been AWAKENED toward the action you are to take?
- * What people, what cultures, what individuals, what lifestyles, what circumstances – have left people with the feeling that they could have no access to God?