

Sermon Title: Who Jesus let into his world

After watching that video about a bad quote, a good quote can really improve your attitude or your perspective and get you focused for the day/week/month ahead.

This morning I want to share a quote from Good Will Hunting "It's those little idiosyncrasies that only I knew about. That's what made her my wife. Oh and she had the goods on me too, she knew all my little peccadillos. People call these things imperfections, but they're not, that's the good stuff. And then we get to choose who we let into our weird little worlds."

The last little part of the quote is what we are going to talk about today, the fact that in life whether married or single we get to choose who we let into our weird little worlds.

Jesus did the same thing in his life when he chose 12 people to let into his world.

- We have heard over the last two weeks how Jesus dealt with the crowds, and how he took time to be one on one with God.
- Today we are going to focus on the 12 guys that Jesus chose to let into his world, and we are going to see how he interacted differently with them than he did with the big crowds.

How did Jesus interact with the crowds?

He taught the crowds through sermons, miracles, and parables.

1. Matthew – Sermon on the Mount, Luke – Sermon on the plain
2. Jesus performed miracles as a way to validate his teaching
3. Jesus used parables to naturally divide the crowd, into those that want to know more and those that are just there for the miracles.

How did Jesus interact with the disciples?

Matthew 16:13-28

This passage shows us 2 different interactions:

1. In a smaller group atmosphere Jesus is able to ask the disciples questions, leading to what he had hoped to hear.
 - Peter gave him a nearly perfect answer calling him the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
2. Jesus was able to single Peter out because of the small group nature. Singling people out in a large group causes much anxiety.

- Because Jesus had traveled with Peter for 2 years already he knew Peter well, and let Peter in on his future after blessing him.
3. Peter's interaction with Jesus made Jesus comfortable enough to tell the disciples about his impending death and resurrection
 4. Because of Jesus's relationship with Peter he is able to use hyperbole and sarcasm to make a point, that the things of God are more important than the things of this world.
 - This was important to teach the disciples, because out of the 12 on John would die of natural causes.

Throughout Jesus' ministry the disciples became like family to him.

- They followed him but also just got to live life with him. And Jesus knew exactly how to take everyday events and turn them into teaching moments.
- That is something we do well here at BRC also. Relationships only get deeper and closer in a small group setting.

That's the reason why I'm here this morning, to show you why a small group setting was so important to Jesus, and hopefully translate into your wanting to be involved in one.

- The reason why small groups are so important to me is because of the impact that they had on my life, particularly my sanctification
- What we want out of the Discipleship Go small groups is simple, you to grow closer to each other and grow closer to God.

Challenges:

1) Try what we are proposing.

- The Leaders in this church (consistory and greater elders) have chosen you to be in their group.
- If you want to switch groups all you have to do is talk to Pastor Dan or myself

2) Let some different people into our strange little worlds and be open to what God has to speak to you in this group through these people.

3) We are challenging you to possibly step out of your comfort zone for a little bit, commit to a little more for Jesus, and see where it might take your faith.

Will you accept this challenge?

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