



Sermon Discussion Questions

April 15 and 22, 2012

Michael Flake – Huntersville and Davidson

Celebrate: The Uncelebrated

Note: This sermon was preached at LFC-Huntersville on April 15 and will be preached at LFC-Davidson on April 22nd.

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13

Introduce it: Begin thinking about the sermon

Can you remember a time that you accomplished something big or a big anniversary, birthday or event that should have been celebrated went by, but no one celebrated it with you? Tell about this time and share with the group what it felt like to "not" be celebrated. What was your attitude? If you can't think of a time for you, share a time you watched this happen to another.

Revisit it: Look back at the passages taught

Read Matthew 9:9-13

Let's define the characters in this story. Let's start with Jesus. How far along is Jesus in his ministry at this point and what in this passage tells you this information?

*Leader- he is very early in his ministry. He is still calling the original 12 disciples. We see him call Matthew in this passage.

Look back a chapter and beginning with chapter 8:28 and all the way up thru this passage, who are all the people that we have seen Jesus encounter?

*Leader: two demon possessed men, a paralytic, tax-collectors and Pharisees.

What do you know about the relationship of the Pharisees with all these others that Jesus has encountered? How would the Pharisees define these people and what would be their encounter with them?

*Leader: Pharisees would call of these people sinners and have nothing to do with them. They were outcast to the Pharisees and "unloved by God" according to the Pharisees.

How are the words of Jesus in verse 12-13 lived out by Jesus in these encounters?

*Leader: he heals the sick, he shows mercy, he calls the sinners in these encounters.

This morning, Michael told the story of Luke 15:11-31. As a group, if you have time, read all of Luke 15 and tell about all the things that were celebrated. Why were these things celebrated?

*Leader: a lost sheep, a lost coin, a lost son. Lost things that are found are celebrated.

Read the following quote that Michael made in his sermon this morning:

"God wants you to celebrate uncelebrated people. In other words, God wants you to be more like Him."

What makes it hard for you to celebrate the uncelebrated? In other words, why do we celebrate, who do we celebrate and how is this different from those God calls us to celebrate?

*Leader: we tend to celebrate those that have done something great, have earned the right to be celebrated, have done something great. God celebrates those that others want to outcast. The greater celebration is because something was lost but now is found.

Use It: Don't just learn the passage-apply it

Who are the people in your neighborhood, your workplace or in your family that others shun and they are convinced that they are not worth celebrating? They may be so convinced of this that they continue to do things to make others not celebrate them.

The following was a quote in the sermon today: "if we follow Jesus, or if we ever decide to, we get to celebrate people who are shocked to learn that God loves them. We get to celebrate uncelebrated people."

How can you celebrate the people around you in a practical way even this week? In other words, in what ways can your deeds and words tell them that God loves them even if they don't want to be loved by God?

Who are the most difficult people for you to celebrate? This week, take out a piece of paper and write down all the reasons why God should NOT celebrate you. What are things in your life that you know should keep God from celebrating you, YET he does

Remember It: Memorize the verse

Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:20; "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."