

Christian Ed- Session 1- Walk in the **Newness** of Life

This week in CE, we are going to talk about what it means to **WALK** in the **NEW** life that Jesus Christ gave us when He voluntarily died and rose again. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance." If He said He came so that "they may have life," He is clearly saying that **we don't have life!** **Why not?** Because our relationship with God needed mending. Jesus Christ sacrificed His life, so that we could "have it (life) in abundance!" Eternal life... life with God, in the Kingdom... and St. Paul in Romans 6:4 tells us, if you look at your shirts, to "Walk in the Newness of Life!" If we walk today like citizens of the Kingdom, we will sit eternally around the Lord's table in the Kingdom! Let's talk about this New Life and what walking in it looks like. 😊

- What comes to mind when you think of "new life?" What images? What kinds of things? **Babies, Plants - flowers, fruit**
- What are characteristics of new life? Fragile, young, it needs much care. A newborn infant is going to need much more intentional care than a three-year-old. A freshly planted fruit tree is going to need more intentional care: watering, fertilizing, etc - than an older tree, and in each case, it's going to take some time before any noticeable fruit is harvested. These are all things that take time to develop, right? In all of these cases, there is a process of growth.
- This idea of the Christian life being compared to a plant or to fruit is nothing new that I'm making up here. Indeed, Paul writes about Christians displaying the "fruit of the Spirit." ****Ask if anyone knows what they are;** they are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. **How do we obtain these things? **Here an example can be used.** Tell the kids this: "Now, Feel peaceful. Be at peace." Give them a few seconds to try it. And ask if anyone could do it. If someone could, ask them how they did it, and walk them through the fact that even attaining to a *moment* of peace was some sort of process (slowing their breathing, thinking of nature, praying, etc). Now, if someone is to live a LIFE OF PEACE, isn't that something that would take continued slow breathing, thinking of nature, prayer, etc? The idea is to get the kids to understand that these virtues take time to develop.

- In the same way that actual fruit needs to be grown from a seed that is planted, our pursuit of the fruit of the Spirit is one that is only accomplished by developing these virtues. The way you become patient is by practicing patience, etc.
- Jesus says something very interesting that demonstrates this to us: “Unless a seed falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” Here there is this idea of death yielding new life. A seed dying will produce great fruit, otherwise, it only remains a seed; nothing occurs without its death.
- Consider the Resurrection. Could it have happened without the crucifixion? No. They are two parts of a full act. It is the crucifixion of Christ that leads directly to new life in his Resurrection. **So when we are talking about the newness of life in human terms (the Christian life), we also must talk about the old life being put to death and left behind, but this begs a question. Namely: What is the old life that we are leaving behind?**
- In Paul’s letters, this idea of putting off the old life and living in the new one is an idea that is repeated again and again. For Paul, this is a journey toward finding his identity in Christ and Christ alone. For Paul, he certainly is concerned with deeds. Right before he talks about the fruit of the Spirit, he mentions what life outside of the Spirit looks like: “immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing and other things like this.” In short, the things that he mentions are sin. **But then this makes me ask a question: what is the problem with sin? Why are these things so bad to do? Perhaps the problem with sin isn’t so much that it’s so bad, as that it’s a waste of time.** It is the way of death - “The wages (what sin leads to) of sin is death” - and if we are to live in new life, sin doesn’t so much have a part of that. We were not created for sin, but for God. We shouldn’t just avoid sin because we are afraid of getting in trouble with God, but because it’s not who we are!
- Jesus himself says, “As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. There is a judge for the one who *rejects me and does not accept my words*; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.” Jn 12:47-50 If Jesus does not come to judge the world, but to save it, one more question remains: save it from what? **The world. The way of death. Old life.**

- Jesus came to give us life! (**ask who remembers what that means**) Now, we must choose to walk in the new life that He has given us, developing the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives. If we choose otherwise, as He says here, we bring judgment to ourselves. **Break the campers up into groups. Have them think of a situation at school, home or with friends where the promise of something wonderful is there... IF! For example, if you do the dishes, you can watch TV. What happens if you don't do the dishes? Should we be angry at our parents or teachers? DISCUSS**
- So, we must hear the Teacher, Jesus Christ, who gives us all we need to know what this new life looks like. If we walk a different road, watch out. Paul writes, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world." Note that he states, "any longer." This implies that we currently are conformed to this world. So what does that mean? How do we think of things? **What is success? How will you know that you have become successful?** What are we told from an early age that we need to do? We are told that we need to earn enough money, get good grades, find a spouse, have babies. These are the things that indicate success in the pattern of this world. All of these things are centered around the accomplishments we have. They are ego boosters, and nothing more. Each of us is concerned only with what we each want. **"What do I want to do?" "What are my plans?" We are stuck in these ways of thinking. We will talk about this idea more tomorrow...**
- Paul writes, after this, "Be transformed by the renewal of your mind...do not think of yourselves more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you..." Here Paul does not say "don't think of yourselves," but think of yourselves clearly. So again, the question of identity comes up. **(**Ask what they think this means. Who are we? What do we believe?)**
- **We are Christians.** This means that we are not here for ourselves. Paul writes, "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Paul gets it here! Christ is our identity! Again, the question of sin comes up here. The problem isn't that we make Jesus upset with us. The problem is that we aren't living like the people we truly are. We're just wasting time. This isn't to say that individual desires and individual personalities are not good, but those desires and personality traits should lead us towards becoming who we are IN CHRIST! Becoming who we truly are and finding our identity in Christ means recognizing who we uniquely

are in reference to him... what did he give each of us to offer to the world? We become who we actually are when we die for others!!

- Becoming who we truly are in Christ is a process of being transformed. Since we dwell in Christ, we have the capacity for this change. It is painful, but it is the way things are. When we come up against those darker parts of ourselves, it is an opportunity for us to remember our new identity as Christians, and this is something that we can only achieve through constant renewal. Paul confronts this issue in a number of ways. In Romans 7, he writes, “For I have the desire for what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing... Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” It is through the constant return to Christ that we put to death the old life and hold on to the new one. When we do this, we, like Paul, will be able to see the value of knowing Christ above knowing the ways of old life.
- Phil 3 - But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them **garbage**, that I may gain Christ and be found in him... I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
- The word “garbage” here is a severe word. Some translations state “rubbish,” but really, the Greek word that Paul uses here is *skuvbalon*, which is the English of, “shit.” It is a vulgar word that Paul uses to contrast it with the greatness of knowing Christ. Again, it is important that we understand how uncomfortable, strange, and sometimes painful this process is. It is a matter of becoming a new person. The new life is ours! We are “born again.” We become like children. We are formed all over again. God is our Father, and this means that he parents us. He corrects us. He says, “What you’re doing is hurting you. Here’s a better way to do it.” **Does anyone remember some way that your parents corrected you that was painful at the time, but you know was to form you into a better person?** This is what the Lord does for us. Here’s one more way to think about it:
- Gal 3:27 - have put on Christ - one translation reads: “have clothed yourselves with Christ.” This is like when you get new clothes: when we wear them the first time, we’re always a little uncertain. Proud, perhaps, but uncertain nonetheless; this is because these clothes are new, and they

are not a part of our regular wardrobe. It takes time to feel comfortable in a new set of clothes. Imagine being in a new suit or dress: it's uncomfortable at first, but if you wore suits or dresses every day, they would quickly become a part of how you present yourself. You're no longer putting on a suit or dress; you are simply putting on your clothes for the day, just like you always do.

- **Now that you've put on these "new" clothes, you must walk! 😊**
Tomorrow we will discuss how we need to relate to our possessions and to people, in order to walk freely with Christ.

SESSION 2- DETACHMENT FROM THE WORLD

- To walk with Jesus means to be mindful of Him and keeping the relationship with God that He accomplished for us, in good shape. It is to have in mind, always, who you are as a new person in Jesus Christ... that you are to be a servant of others, to let Christ live through you in a very real way, producing THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, living with a real awareness of Christ in each person you meet.
- To walk is to simply live and make choices. Often we base our choices on what's pleasing to others... what will give us "success"... enjoyment... the least amount of work. What we ought to be doing is staying in touch with Jesus in our walk, knowing that we are taking the same walk He did... to the Cross... to put to death our own life, as He did, for the sake of the world.
- Visit Gethsemane- And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt." Mark 14:36 **What are the things Christ is experiencing here?** "Do I have to?" "But not what I want." Here we see Jesus submit to the Father for the sake of the other. If the Lord is going to have these moments, we will for sure.
- Truly walking with Christ requires renunciation (to give up or put aside voluntarily) of the self and everything that makes the world revolve around your wants and desires... what does it look like when our experience in the world revolves around God? No compartments (church life, family, school,) but living in "unceasing prayer", which really is constant mindfulness of Him and communication with Him wherever we are, whoever we're with, and whatever we're doing.
- It is easy to put God in a box as one part of our life. This is actually how most of us have been engaged in the world by our environment. We have a family, school, work maybe, extra- curricular activities, and we're religious or not religious. What else does a typical human being define himself by? This type life is typical, conventional, and learned. **WHAT ARE SOME IDEAS**

THAT YOU THINK HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON YOU THAT DON'T GO WITH LIVING A LIFE COMPLETELY GIVEN TO GOD?

- Walking in the newness of life means re-orienting ourselves to the life that God has given us to live...to live a life focused on using what God has given you for the sake of the world, and trusting that “all good and perfect gifts are from above.” As we talked about yesterday, this is a process of growth and practice.
- John of the Ladder: how do we live detached from the world and everything that we “think” gives us life? We must **hold everything with “open hands”, willing to part with the things that we think keep us safe and secure, at any time.** What does it look like to be improperly attached to things? (allow them to answer)

Another thing we are attached to is the praise of men. St. Macarius story:

St. Macarius was once asked by a pilgrim how to find salvation in the world. He told the man to go to the cemetery and insult the dead people who were buried there. This he did and then returned to the saint. The saint then told him to return to the cemetery and sing the praises of those who were buried there. This he did and returned.

The saint then asked the pilgrim: “What did the dead people do when you insulted them?”

“Why nothing, of course, Holy Father,” the man replied.

St. Macarius continued, “What did the dead people do when you praised them?”

“Why nothing, of course, Holy Father,” the man replied again.

“Go and do the same, and you will be saved. Be dead both to the praises and the curses of men and you will obtain salvation.”

DISCUSSION: How hard is it for praises and curses of men not to phase us? Why does it?

ACTIVITY- What are we attached to? Have the kids write down 3 things on post-its that they feel it would be very hard to part with. Have them split up into groups and have open conversation and get to the heart of why it is difficult to part with those things. Have one person from each group answer that question out loud.

DISCUSSION: Do we need those things to serve God in the world? What is the motivation behind our wanting certain things, money, possessions? Is it Parents? Friends? Reputation? Money? Control? Acceptance? Or, do we make a real effort to pay attention to what God has given us to serve the world?

- We must exist “on earth as it is in Heaven” and see God is our King today. He is the source of our life our true sustenance. He has given us this new life, so all that we do must be in thanksgiving of that gift. If we see our life being sustained by our home, clothes, job, people’s approval, etc., God will simply exist as a distant helper and not the source of our lives. He is truly the life-giver for each of us.
- It is necessary that we are free from being improperly attached to our possessions and see them as serving a temporary function. These things don’t define us or make us who we are. It is in emptying ourselves of what we think we want and need that we become our true selves and walk freely with Christ.
- Tomorrow we will look at Jesus’ relationships with certain people in Scripture that illustrate His approach to each person as unique and truly life giving.

SESSION 3- Jesus' interactions with people in Scripture

- The Lord approached each person He came in contact with as they were. Each had different things they had to put aside in order to walk freely with Christ. Let us look at some interactions and ask these questions:
 - 1- What, if anything, was the person talking to Jesus seeking?
 - 2- How did Jesus' words and approach to each person differ?
 - 3- What was accomplished in the interaction?
- THE RICH MAN- Mark 10:17-34
- Questions students will discuss in groups. Go over together:
 - Did He really desire the Kingdom on God's terms? Or on His own terms?
 - What was he attached to? We talked yesterday about our attachments. Would it be hard for you to suddenly be without nothing? Why? What possessions actually matter?
- Discuss the following as a group together after groups share what they discussed on the above questions:
 - His adherence to the "rules," was good, but what was the problem with it? This deluded him to think that He had a "golden ticket" to the Kingdom. But what did Jesus require from him? A TOTAL CHANGE OF CHARACTER.
 - We must set aside what we think is good, and only reference Christ for what is actually good. Does this mean for you to sell all you have, etc.? Maybe... but that instruction was for that man about his attachment and what was preventing him from fully giving himself over to be a citizen of the Kingdom. Is there anything in your life that is keeping you from living as a citizen of the Kingdom?

- Why does Jesus, right after this interaction with the Rich Man, tell His disciples what is about to happen to Him? They never understand the full stipulations of following Him. Giving “all they have” and walking to the cross as He does.
- ADULTEROUS WOMAN- John 8:3-12 (maybe just for the older ones)
- Students will discuss in groups:
 - His interaction with her was a teaching for the crowd & the religious leaders. It is also for her to know that He loves her and is merciful.
 - Pharisees and scribes are talking about her... as an object. When they leave, Christ is the first one to address her as “YOU”... etc... treating her like a person.
- Discuss as a group after students share on the above thoughts.
 - Jesus will deal personally with each. Is it not for any of us to use a teaching against our brothers. It is for each of us to hear the teaching and to walk. We are only in control of our own choices.
 - We must look back at Christ if our eyes are somewhere else. This relationship has ups and downs. Leave Him to judge you and others. Your job is to look back at Him and walk with Him when you have woken up and realized you are walking in your own way. Missteps will happen. Just wake up and keep walking.
- ZACCHAUS- LUKE 19:1-10 (for the young ones)
- Students will discuss these points in groups:

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. He wanted to see him really bad. Although he was a government official, he didn't care if it was embarrassing. He climbed into a tree to see Jesus. His efforts were rewarded. Not only did he get to see him, but Jesus stopped, and told Zacchaeus that he would come to his house to spend time with him. Zacchaeus was thrilled. He went home to prepare.

But others were upset. Tax collectors were not respected people. And the Jews thought it was shameful for Jesus to spend time with a sinner. But Zacchaeus repented. He not only vowed to give away half his

wealth, but to repay anyone he had cheated. Jesus said this was why he had come, to seek out and save the those who were lost.

DISCUSS THESE POINTS AS ONE GROUP:

Discussion: How do we approach people today whose lifestyles we cannot condone?

Discussion: Zacchaeus sought Jesus, and got closer to him than he had hoped. God says if we seek him, we will find him. Many people wonder where God is in their lives, but never go looking for him. What are some ways we can seek after God in our lives?

Discussion: Zacchaeus didn't use his shortness as an excuse to quit looking for Jesus. What obstacles do we have to overcome to see Jesus? Are any of these obstacles great enough to separate us from Jesus?

- PARALYTIC – MARK 2:1-12

- What the friends wanted for the paralytic and what the paralytic wanted for himself turned out to be different than what Jesus thought was good for him.
- Students will discuss these points in their groups:

What would have they thought when they saw that there was no room? Visualize their conversation. Imagine yourself into that situation.

- Disappointed
- May be next time (Well, we did our part by bringing him here!)
- Let us wait here for Jesus to come out!
- Let us go back, we will bring him again!

What do you think about their decision?

- Now or never!
- Desperate measures
- Tough, difficult and quite strange decision (they decided to open the roof of somebody's house, it wasn't their house, after all!)
- Imagine also the paralytic man's agreement in this decision

Discuss these points as a group:

- The man was mostly silent in this interaction, but the faith of his friends made it clear to Jesus what he desired. He allowed his friends to bring him. And he got more than he expected.

- Jesus gave His words of forgiveness weight by healing the man from his physical paralysis. It is easy to say “your sins are forgiven,” but to watch the man get up and walk, it showed He has the power to forgive sins.
- What does this interaction tell us about our own relationship with Jesus?

The Lord truly approached each person as they are, to meet their needs and heal their specific ailments... both physical and spiritual. He approaches each of us the same way. Tomorrow will we talk about how we build a relationship with Jesus and what our walk with Him should look like.

SESSION 4- LIVING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST VS. LIVING BY CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES

- There are 2 ways in which we can walk in the “new life” accomplished for us by Christ on the Cross.

1- We can follow what we think is the Christian way... living by what we believe to be Christian principles and trying not to do what we believe to be “wrong” or “bad”. This puts us in a lifestyle that is based on rules we’ve made or that have been made for us. We ask questions like, “Is that a sin?” or “Is it ok that she did that?” We use these lists of right and wrong to find ourselves favorable... blessed in the eyes of God. At the same time, we use these lists to have reasons to hate ourselves or to believe we’ve completely severed ourselves from God and that we’ll just have to figure out life on our own. Living by lists actually puts a wall up between you and Jesus. You have imagined who He should be for all people, and not only will you confine Him to this list, but you will also confine yourself and others to this list. As we have seen in the scriptural interactions, Jesus approaches each person as they are to meet their needs. If we live by rules, we’ll never really know Him... or our true self.

- Let’s illustrate the danger of living by lists. Have the campers brainstorm 2 lists. The first will be what they think is the right way to live as a Christian, and the 2nd will be what they think are the wrong things to do. Make sure they include... music choices, weekend activities, approach to school, church, parents, who do you date? Marry? and the poor.
 - After the lists are made, dialogue about:
 - What might not work for everyone. Would living by these lists potentially affect our view or relationship of other people’s choices or lifestyle? How?
 - How robotic this kind of life makes us. Imagine a life where you live by principles, without knowing the one who wrote them?

you, telling you what your next step should be... or having your ears open to hear him screaming at you to tell you that you're not where you should be. We must be walking to be guided, and choose our steps based on serving God and others, not ourselves. Standing still won't get us anywhere. Choose and he'll direct you. So, how to behave IS IMPORTANT. However, it's important because you have a relationship with Christ that you don't want to mess up... not because some distant God who you don't know gave you rules and you are just playing by them.

SESSION 5

- Looking back on our “walk” this week, what have you learned about the New Life given to you by Jesus’ death and resurrection?
- Who is Jesus to you and how has He guided your life? If you don’t know yet, that’s ok. Let today be the day that you begin to communicate with Him and notice how He is guiding your life. (Ask for any volunteers to talk about their relationship with Jesus)
- REMEMBER THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE IMAGE FOR YOU OF WHAT IT IS TO BE GOD AND WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN. SINCE YOU ARE HUMAN, :-)
ALLOWING YOURSELF TO BE CONFORMED TO THIS NEW LIFE IS WHAT YOU’VE BEEN INVITED TO DO. JESUS CHRIST IS WHO AND WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO BE A CITIZEN OF GOD’S KINGDOM.
- What will be helpful to you in walking in this NEW LIFE after you return home from camp? ***Family, Friends, CHURCH***
- **What does it mean for you and me to be members of the Church? Jesus Christ calls the church His body. What does that mean?** We are to serve Him as one community. We each have a part, just like the body does. The church is not an institution or a club to join for social activities or family obligation, but it is the unified gathering of God’s people that is called together by Christ and set apart for His work. It is the image of how God desires to be with His people for eternity... one body, no divisions, gathered together to love and serve Him and each other.
- In order to move forward when we return home and truly live and walk with Christ, we need to understand what it means to be part of the Body of Christ. It is through community that we will be strengthened to grow good Fruit of the Spirit and develop into our true selves in Christ. To understand what it means to be a church community, we need to return to the core of the Early Church and how they established themselves and functioned.

- The early church can be characterized by 3 things: Separation from the world, real childlike obedience to Jesus Christ, and UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.
- **Let's look at these quotes about the early church. What do they say about what it truly means to be THE CHURCH? Put the images they describe in a modern situation. Depending on how many students, give some groups Justin's quote, some Clement's quote, and some Lactantius' quote.**
- Justin Martyr described Christian love this way: "We who used to value the acquisition of wealth and possessions more than anything else now bring what we have into a common fund and share it with anyone who needs it. We used to hate and destroy one another and refused to associate with people of another race or country. Now, because of Christ, we live together with such people and pray for our enemies."
- Clement, describing the person who has come to know God, wrote, "He impoverishes himself out of love, so that he is certain he may never overlook a brother in need, especially if he knows he can bear poverty better than his brother. He likewise considers the pain of another as his own pain. And if he suffers any hardship because of having given out of his own poverty, he does not complain."
- Lactantius wrote, "If we all derive our origin from one man, whom God created, we are plainly all of one family. Therefore it must be considered an abomination to hate another human, no matter how guilty he may be. For this reason, God has decreed that we should hate no one, but that we should eliminate hatred. So we can comfort our enemies by reminding

them of our mutual relationship. For if we have all been given life from the same God, what else are we but brothers? ... Because we are all brothers, God teaches us to never do evil to one another, but only good—giving aid to those who are oppressed and experiencing hardship, and giving food to the hungry.”

DISCUSSION FOR AFTER GROUPS PRESENT THEIR MODERN DAY SITUATIONS:

- As one Christian told the Romans, “We love one another with a mutual love because we do not know how to hate.” **If Christians today said this to the world, would the world believe it? Why or why not?**
- The love of the early Christians wasn't limited simply to their fellow believers. Christians also lovingly helped non-believers: the poor, the orphans, the elderly, the sick, the shipwrecked—even their persecutors. Jesus had said, “Love your enemies ... and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Matt. 5:44). The early Christians accepted this statement as a command from their Lord, rather than as an ideal that couldn't be actually practiced in real life.
- Based on how people viewed the early Church and how the Church viewed itself, how do you think Christianity spread rapidly throughout the ancient world, even though there were few organized missionary or evangelism programs? **The love they practiced drew the attention of the world, just as Jesus said it would.**

- So it is love that truly is God. It isn't what Christian people do, it's what they are because it is what God is. It isn't one of God's attributes, but it is truly who God is.
- Let us become love for people and walk in this new life with the same excitement and commitment to Christ as those that literally walked with Him!

RICH MAN- MARK 10:17-34

[17] And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

[18] And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.

[19] You know the commandments: `Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'"

[20] And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have observed from my youth."

[21] And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

[22] At that saying his countenance fell, and he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

[23] And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

[24] And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

[25] It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

[26] And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?"

[27] Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

[28] Peter began to say to him, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you."

[29] Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,

[30] who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

[31] But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

[32] And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him,

[33] saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles;

[34] and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise."

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR GROUPS:

- Did He really desire the Kingdom on God's terms? Or on His own terms?
- What was he attached to? We talked yesterday about our attachments. Would it be hard for you to suddenly be without nothing? Why? What possessions actually matter?

ADULTEROUS WOMAN- JOHN 8:3-12

[3] The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst

[4] they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.

[5] Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?"

[6] This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

[7] And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

[8] And once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

[9] But when they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

[10] Jesus looked up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

[11] She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again."

[12] Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Discuss these questions in your groups:

- What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the crowd and the religious leaders? What did he want the woman to receive from the interaction?
- The Pharisees and Scribes were addressing her differently than Christ did. Talk about this. How did their approaches to her differ even in the words they used?

ZACCHAUS- LUKE 19:1-10

- [1] He entered Jericho and was passing through.
- [2] And there was a man named Zacchae'us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich.
- [3] And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature.
- [4] So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way.
- [5] And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchae'us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today."
- [6] So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully.
- [7] And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."
- [8] And Zacchae'us stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold."
- [9] And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.
- [10] For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Discuss these questions in your groups:

- 1- What did Zacchaeus do so he could see Jesus? Did it pay off? What happened?
- 2- Some people were upset that Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house. Why? What good came from Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus?

PARALYTIC- MARK 2:1-12

[1] And when he returned to Caper'na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home.

[2] And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them.

[3] And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.

[4] And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay.

[5] And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

[6] Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,

[7] "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

[8] And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts?"

[9] Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'?

[10] But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" -- he said to the paralytic --

[11] "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home."

[12] And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS IN YOUR GROUPS:

1- What would they have thought when they saw that there was no room? Picture their conversation. Imagine yourself in that situation.

2- What do you think about their decision?