

# *Come* TASTE & SEE

Come Taste & See | Chad Bruegman | 3.12.17

LG Weekly

## START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer these two questions:

**What is your absolute favorite restaurant and why is it better than anyone else's choice in the room?**

## SHARE

As a church, we decided to take time this week to remember. We remember Jesus.

We remember the life he lived here on earth; the things he taught, the people he loved and most of all, his sacrifice on the cross for us. Jesus invites us to his table to remember him to remember the mercy we have received.

God knows we can be a forgetful people, and that is why Jesus specifically reminded his disciples to remember. When we forget Jesus, we lose our way and by default we try to create shortcuts back to God to justify ourselves before him. There is no formula to justify ourselves, no way back other than to sit at his feet and simply ask for mercy. It is when we cry out for mercy, that the ears of Heaven hear. It is in our fading strength when we are most likely to take a knee and ask for forgiveness. Unfortunately, it is easy to forget how good God is and how his sacrifice was enough to cover our sins.

We do not put confidence in our own righteousness, but in the one who made us righteous. If we begin to put confidence in ourselves, we become self-righteous and will inevitably look down on others. As he often does, Jesus told this parable...

Read Luke 18:9-14

**How would you define a self-righteous person?**

**What is it like hanging out with a self-righteous person? Do you find it surprising that they can be lonely people?**

**According to this story, who went home justified before God? Both men were praying, what was different about the tax collector's prayers?**

## G R O W

In this week's message Chad talked about the human condition and our obsession with religious systems to make right what seems wrong. Mankind has been doing it since the first moment we fell into sin in the Garden of Eden. It is 'Edenology 101.' We try and cover our sin and shame ourselves by our own ingenuity. Genesis 3:7 records this moment after they sinned... "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves." They immediately felt shame and created coverings. Thousands of years later, nothing has changed. We still create coverings. Religion can never be satisfied, since there is always more to be done. There is no peace, because we are never certain if we have done enough. It is different with Jesus, because it is about relationship; he has already done the work on our behalf. All we have to do is come to the table of mercy, where all are welcome.

Read Luke 7:36-50

In *The Holman New Testament Commentary*: Luke, Butler, T. C. (2000). Luke (Vol. 3, pp. 110–111), we get a clear picture of the dramatic difference between Simon and this broken woman who pours out all she has at the feet of Jesus:

The woman had poured perfume on Jesus' feet, but Simon had not brought olive oil for anointing a guest's head (see Ps. 23:5; 141:5; Amos 6:6; Matt. 6:17; Luke 10:34). Such an act would show extreme respect and courtesy to the guest. Simon had shown neither. The woman had strained her resources to purchase expensive perfume, not for Jesus' head but for his feet. Who won out in the

comparison?

**7:47-50.** Finally, Jesus was ready to make his point. Her many sins were forgiven. Jesus did not dispute the woman's condition with Simon. Both agreed how sinful she was. The question was how acceptable she was. Simon was repulsed at the sight of her presence. Jesus let her touch, kiss, and wash him. Why? Because she loved much. Because she was a human in need of divine grace. Because she needed what Jesus had to give—forgiveness and salvation. Ignoring any reply or reaction from Simon, Jesus spoke to the woman. **Your sins are forgiven!**

Now party guests gasped. How could anyone forgive sins? That was God's job. Who did this man Jesus claim to be? Again Jesus ignored them, focusing on the woman and her need: "Go on without worry. **Your faith has saved you.**" Yes, Jesus the Savior's call for faith found a person ripe for the call. This was not a disciple of John the Baptist. Nor was she a religious leader in Israel. Nor was she a pious individual studying the Pharisees' decisions and seeking to obey their law. This was a woman, a sinner and an outcast. The least of these had become greater than the contemporary religious heroes. Only sinners answer the call for faith. Self-righteous people fail to see their need of it.

**What stands out to you most about this story?**

**Both the Pharisee and the woman have a sin problem, how do they deal with it differently?**

**Between the Pharisee and the woman, which one was most likely looked down upon? Which one left the table with the peace of God?**

## **M O V E**

Jesus is a master story-teller and within the story, we always find ourselves. Sometimes we are the Pharisee, other times the woman, maybe an onlooker at the party, but none of us can just listen to Jesus without being affected. The word of God does that to our hearts. It gets to the heart of the matter every time. Like the Pharisee, we can be so blind to our own sin and who is the rightful judge of the hearts of men. We forget we are inasmuch need of forgiveness as anyone else we deem to be more sinful. This woman showed great love because she knew what a great debt she owed, and yet was forgiven. The Pharisee saw his own sin differently. We are saved by grace through faith; there is no other way to find peace in our struggle with sin.

Let's read Ephesians 2:7-9

**Considering the story of the woman with the alabaster jar, do you feel that you have been showing great love to others lately? If not, what do you think has been standing in the way?**

**Scripture tells us that God's kindness leads to repentance; it is his goodness and love that draws us to his feet. How have you been viewing God lately? Are you seeing him rightly or do you have a distorted view of God?**

#### **P R A Y**

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

#### **T O G O**

#### **James 2:12-13**

"Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment."