



Five Reasons I'm In the Company of Jesus | Jimmy Rollins | 11.7.21
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

Where do you land? Christmas season has arrived or let the turkey have its day.

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, we were honored to have Jimmy Rollins to continue our series, "Five Reasons" by reminding us that we are in the company of Jesus and that he always uses people to fulfill his plans.

GROW

Read Matthew 4:18-20; Luke 8:1-3

When Jesus came into the picture, he flipped many of the cultural norms of society to bring dignity, justice and restoration to all humanity. What is one way you notice in this passage that may have been against "cultural norm"?

To be a disciple in the Jewish culture was at the highest esteem. Imagine yourself having the life goal to go to an Ivy league school, the best of the best gets accepted. This was similar to the culture. Young boys would study the Torah (the teaching of the law also known as the five books of Moses). They would study and memorize these Scriptures in hopes that one day they are chosen and accepted by an esteemed Rabbi. If you are chosen, you have "made it."

We read that the ones that are in Jesus' company are a bunch of misfits, riffraff, broken messed up people with some "stories". There are women in Jesus' company, fisherman, a tax collector, people who have been through some things and they were all invited into the company with Jesus where you heal as you go. The qualification is the acceptance of Jesus' invitation to all of us. To go. "I don't feel qualified," you're not, but God is. God is using all people; you are God's choice. We don't have to wait to get fixed or get our stuff together to be used... If God can change you, there must be a God (see Rev. 12:11).

Reflecting on this, what does this stir within you? Explain.

MOVE

In week two of "Five Reasons," Jimmy gave us *Five Reasons to be in the Company of Jesus* and we are going to go through each of the five reasons together.

1. His Plan

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6:9-13)

"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." Jimmy reminded us that Heaven is not a place where you just go when you die, it is wherever God is. You are an ambassador of His kingdom and you are part of God's plan.

What is a first thought when you hear that God uses all people to fulfill His plan?

How have you seen God use your life for His plan?

2. Help Wanted

It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what

we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah. (Ephesians 2:1-6 msg)

In our humanity, we tend to forget that this is all about building God's Kingdom and nothing to do with our own kingdom we may be trying to build.

Where is God asking you to be? Are you in it for yourselves, to build your kingdom or are you in it because God's plan is just that good and you want to be a part of building his Kingdom right here and now?

Your story will be used. God's plan invites you into it. The Harvest is plentiful, the workers are few. In your coming and going, remember WE are the Church and it starts outside of the four walls of RRC.

What does this mean for your life when hearing that Church is outside of the four walls of RRC?

3. Hands Open

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'" (Matthew 25:34-36)

"When you live an open-handed life, God will keep your hands full." (Jimmy Rollins)

During Jimmy's talk this weekend he had us open our hands, palms facing up as a reminder that each of us are uniquely created, no fingerprints alike. We are not a carbon copy. God purposefully placed a purpose for your life. We can either open our hands and receive it to be used for God's glory or we don't. If everything we have is God's, then why

are we holding back? As Jimmy said, “get your hands out of God’s plans.” Trust that God’s got you, he is going to use you, you are in the company of Jesus.

What is God calling you to? How can your story be used to make God known?

What is one thing that is holding you back from walking fully in your calling? What are you afraid of?

4. Hearts Soft

“I will tell of the kindness of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us — yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindness.” (Isaiah 63:7)

When we remember the grace and the mercy God so lavished over our lives, it changes the way we live. It transforms the way we go about our days with our family, friends and neighbors alike. His compassion for us is unmeasurable, new every morning and underserved. Yet, God still invites us to represent him and he chooses to use us to make him known. Messed up, ordinary people for God’s kingdom and his kingdom alone. If this doesn’t blow your heart right up, what does?

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word ‘compassion’?

How has God shown you mercy and grace? How has this shifted your perspective when being called to love others? Explain.

5. History Accepted

“Because of this decision we don’t evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don’t look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“When God wants to start a movement, he doesn’t start with the best people. He starts with the broken.” (Cole)

Our past can determine the way we live. IT can keep us stuck or we can take it and use it for a purpose. As we have discussed this week, being in the company of Jesus requires a humble heart. One that recognizes that there is great purpose in our stories and in the company of Jesus, our history is accepted.

Knowing this, how has your story, your history, determined the way you live your everyday life? Have you found yourself stuck in the shame of it or has it ignited a passion in you to share the work of the Holy Spirit that has transformed your life?

This Week’s Challenge

Pray about the five reasons that you are in God’s company. Ask God to reveal an area in your life that you may be holding back from being fully immersed in the purpose God has for you. Share it with someone this week.

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

*They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...
-Revelation 12:11*