

Problem:

- Read Matthew 8:18-22. What did these two men have in common?
 - they both wanted Jesus on their own terms.
 - how do you see this reflected in your own life?

Main Idea

Without repentance- liking Jesus is no different than hating Him - both are rejection

-read the following article and discuss:

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Beliefs/story?id=1403056>

Text:

Jesus became popular (Matthew 9:18-26)

- Read Numbers 19:11-13.
 - How does this demonstrate the desperation of the synagogue ruler?
- Read Leviticus 15:19-30 and Genesis 31:35.
 - how does this reflect on the desperation of the woman unclean for 12 years?
- The woman touched the fringe of Jesus' garment (Matt. 9:20-21), Read Numbers 15:37-41.
 - how does this illustrate the purpose of the law in drawing people to Christ? Read Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 5:17-20, 48; and Romans 3:19-20, to illustrate this.
- notice who Jesus helped thus far: Matthew 8:2, 5, 14, 28; 9:1, 9-13.
 - What do they all have in common?
 - how do they contrast with the religious leaders?
- Matthew 9:26 describes the growing popularity of Christ as seen in Matthew 4:45; 5:1; 7:28; 8:1, is popularity a good thing?

But He did not want popularity (Matthew 9:27-31)

- The blind man called Jesus the Son of David (Matthew 1:1). Read Matthew 15:10-14.
 - how is this ironic?
- Matthew draws out in Matthew 9:30-31, that Jesus did not want the crowds. Read Matthew 8:18; 9:25; 13:34-36; 14:22-23; 15:39. If popularity was His goal why not build the crowds? Why send them away?

He wanted repentance (Matthew 9:32-35)

- this section truncates the miracle in order to really emphasize the reaction of the crowd. True or false: the crowd liked Jesus?
- read Matthew 21:9-11; 27:20-24; Luke 4:16-30; John 2:23-25; 6:15; 8:31-59. Based on these verses was liking Jesus much different than not liking Him?
- read Matthew 4:23 and 9:35. This was the point of this whole section. Read Matthew 11:20 and Luke 13:3-5. What was the response Jesus wanted?
- Read Ezekiel 16:1-34, 59-63. This was the context that He came to Israel. Read Luke 7:36-49.

This is how they should have responded. They simply did not examine themselves as they watched Christ. They remained spectators and at best liked Him even as they rejected Him. But here is what Jesus illustrates:

You cannot live until you really know you are dead. You cannot be made well until you know you are unwell. You cannot see until you know you are blind. You cannot speak until you know you have been mute. Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God

Application

This woman is the right perspective for salvation and...

for those of us who profess to know God- this passage reminds us of the right perspective for worship.

Read the following article and discuss the ramifications of the sermon as they relate to it:

<http://theologicalsushi.blogspot.com/2012/01/bait-and-switch-gospel-and-manipulation.html>

If time permits read the following and discuss how it relates to the message:

<http://www.thevillagechurch.net/sermon/a-culture-of-repentance/>