

SERMON SERIES: For Everyone

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Sermon Title

“Everyone Matters to Jesus”

Introduction

This week, we started a new series called “For Everyone”. Over the next six weeks, we are going to be focusing on the different values of Calvary, rooted in Scripture, that are essential for us to continue in the work of our mission: To Make Disciples Who Live and Love Like Jesus. This value that we are going to talk about this week, one that we embrace here, is “Everyone Matters to Jesus”. When we understand and live out this value, we can see the transformational power of the Gospel impact so many people's lives. To get started this week, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- Share with the group a time when someone made you feel incredibly valued or important. How did that experience impact you?

Seek the Word

Read Romans 10:11-13 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What does this passage say about the character of God and how He views His creation— us?
- Do you truly believe in what Paul is saying here? What is challenging about this truth, that “anyone” and “everyone” who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved?

Read Luke 15:1-7 and Luke 19:1-10 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- When/where have you seen Jesus search for you and find you, carrying you back home?
- Jesus was scolded and judged for how he spent time with the “sinners”, but still chose the lost every time. How is this an example for the way we ought to live out the love Jesus has for us?

Read Genesis 1:26-27 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- In this passage, we see mankind being created in the image of God. Based on this truth, how should we then view and value ourselves and other people?
- What does it say about God's love for us —mankind— that He would make us in His image?

Go Deeper

There are moments in everyone's life where they can feel like they don't matter. They might not have a prominent position at work, they might not feel valued in their friendships or relationships, and they might even think that no one around them really sees them as anything. Consider a time where you were struggling with the concept of “do I matter?” Looking back now, how did/does knowing that you were made in the image of God and that you matter to Jesus change your perspective on that experience?

Talk About It

- What does it look like to live out the truth that “everyone matters to Jesus”? Pick one area of your life (family, work, friendships, church, etc) that you need to live this truth out in.
- Take a few minutes and think about the people in your life who might be overlooked or are undervalued. What steps can you take to begin to notice them more, and what are some ways in which you can show them that they matter to you and to Jesus?
- It is easier to be a recipient of God’s love than it is to be a conduit, transmitting that love into the lives of the people around us. What needs to change in your life and heart for you to begin channeling the love of God to others more?
- Think about the 4 ways you can recognize and receive Jesus’ love for you. Which of these do you think you have already done or are doing, and which do you think is your next step in your relationship with Jesus?
 - 1) Receive His gift of GRACE
 - 2) Place your IDENTITY in Christ
 - 3) Begin living as FOUND
 - 4) Changing your PRIORITIES

Wrap Up

*Reminder: **Everyone Matters to Jesus.*** The healthy and the sick, the propped-up and the looked-down-on, celebrities and laypeople, all sides of the political aisle and all cultures around the world. EVERYONE matters to Jesus. When we can see this truth and receive the love of Jesus into our own lives, it changes the way that we see the world around us. And when we look at the world through Christ’s eyes, it changes the way we share that love to others.

Challenge for the Week: Notice one overlooked person around you. Who is one person you continually pass by, unnoticed by you and the people around you. Ask God to show you ways and then prompt you to begin showing them care, notice, and value.

Challenge for the Month: Invite one person to come to church with you. Identify and invest in one person who needs to hear the message of Jesus, and then partner with God in working in their lives to bring them to church.

Prayer: Close your group time by praying together, asking God to open your eyes to see others as He sees them. Pray for the courage and compassion to act on the truth that everyone matters to Jesus. Ask for guidance in being a vessel of His love in your community, and thank Him for the love He has for you and each person in your group.

