



DAY 1

LUKE 19:9-10

Judgmental. Critical. Demeaning. Excluding. There are some sectors of Christianity who specialize in this type of attitude. I know, I worshipped there for a long time. Still, I find myself deciding who is worthy of God's love and forgiveness and who isn't. I remember hearing the late Keith Green once saying, 'you don't get cleaned up to take a bath' and the same goes for coming to God. Zacchaeus didn't have to go out and perform some grand gesture to make himself worthy, because there isn't anything grand enough! God accepts us, who we are, where we are. Jesus didn't come for the pristine and holy. He came for broken, damaged, messed up me. And He came for you. Today, salvation can come to you too.

DAY 2

LUKE 15:1-7

What a sharp contrast in the two schools of thought showcased here. We have the Pharisees who didn't think the 'sinners' were worthy to spend time with and Christ who sought such people out. It's so easy to slide into that Pharisaical mindset of looking down our noses over the deeds of others, all the while forgetting we were once lost sheep. When I set myself up as one who is better than another, I become so spiritually unattractive. Actually, I become repellant. How can I possibly help with that lost sheep when I push them away? Instead, I need to reach out and embrace those who are lost. After all, shouldn't we be celebrating over the prospect of bringing another lost one into the fold?

DAY 3

JOHN 12:42-43

When I read this scripture, I find myself scoffing at these folks for not openly professing Christ because they cared more about what other people think. It's in that moment when I hear a still small voice whisper, "Oh, you never do that, do you?" and I am immediately chagrined. Ugh, how often do I do this, even unintentionally in my words or actions? I slip in my comfort zone in order to save face or not be in a position to be unliked. So many occasions come to mind that I played the game so that I wouldn't appear to be offensive, or a Bible thumper. And at what cost? Being open with my faith may not gain me many popularity contests, but it gives me the opportunity to touch lives in a real and profound way. What am I afraid of?

DAY 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-10

4

My first thought when reading this is of the man, Demas, of whom this account is written. Think of how it would be to have your legacy, how you're known through all time, be the one who betrayed and abandoned Paul? What will I be remembered for? Will my coworkers be surprised to know I am a Christian, because there is no evidence of it in the workplace? Will my friends' first thought be about some superficial aspect of my life (my favorite sports team, music genre, activity, hobby, etc.) and not my faith? Will my children remember me as a hypocrite, saying one thing at church yet living another at home? Will it be said of me that I loved this world too much? What a sobering thought. What would you like your legacy to be?

DAY LUKE 19:24-41

5

I believe this account of Christ is one of the most moving in scripture. Christ, high up, looking over the city He loves, weeping because so many were living a life of loss and despair. In another area of scripture, Jesus says that He would want to gather the city under the attentive safety of His wings, as a hen protects her chicks. So much tenderness from our Savior is evidenced here. But what about us? We brush shoulders with the hurting every day. A coworker going through a painful divorce, a friend whose family is ravaged by addiction, a child who has turned their back on their parents and faith, a neighbor whose whole life is the pursuit of the next party. Are our thoughts critical or tender? Do we get irritated or do we ache? Do we share Christ's compassion? If not, what's holding us back?

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