



Encounters with Jesus

***“...He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor...”***

- Isaiah 61:1



Encounters with Jesus

Lesson Objectives

This series intends to reveal to us:

- *how God reaches out to us – the common man*
- *how an encounter with Jesus changes lives*
- *how we can encounter Jesus in our daily lives*

Theme Scriptures:

- *Isaiah 61:1 – ‘He sent me to preach the good news...’*
- *Luke 4:16-21 – ‘Today the scripture has been fulfilled...’*
- *Luke 5:29-32- ‘It is not the healthy that need a doctor...’*
- *Luke 13:34-35 – ‘Long to gather your children together...’*
- *Luke 14:25-35 – ‘Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear...’*
- *Luke 15:1-32 – ‘This man welcomes sinners...’*
- *Luke 24:13-35 – ‘Were not our hearts burning within as he talked...’*

Assignment:

Read the book of Luke





Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.***

***He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them,
“Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it.” - Luke 4:16-21***



And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

- Luke 5:29-32

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’

- Luke 13:34-35



Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

- Luke 14:25-35



Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins,^[a] if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

- Luke 15:1-32



That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.

Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. **They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”** And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

- Luke 24:13-35



Encounters with Jesus

Core Questions

Look at the Encounter

- *who was this individual?*
- *what was their role?*
- *what was their defining characteristic?*
- *how did the world look at them?*
- *what are they seeking?*
- *how did Jesus look at them?*
- *what changed based on this encounter?*

Look at the Application

- *why did the Spirit chose to include this encounter?*
- *what can we learn about Jesus?*
- *what can we learn about ourselves?*

Look at the Implication

- *how we can encounter Jesus in our daily lives*





Encounters with Jesus

Lesson Outline

<i>Week 1 - 12/1</i>	<i>...with Shepherds</i>	<i>Luke 2:8-20</i>
<i>Week 2 - 12/8</i>	<i>...with a Tax Collector</i>	<i>Luke 19:1-10</i>
<i>Week 3 - 12/15</i>	<i>...with a Woman of the City</i>	<i>Luke 7:36-50</i>
<i>Week 4 - 12/22</i>	<i>...with Wise Men</i>	<i>Matt 2:1-12</i>
<i>Week 5 - 12/29</i>	<i>...with a Centurion</i>	<i>Luke 7:1-10</i>
<i>Week 6 - 1/5</i>	<i>...with a Woman of Samaria</i>	<i>John 4:1-42</i>
<i>Week 7 - 1/12</i>	<i>Guest Speaker</i>	
<i>Week 8 - 1/19</i>	<i>...with the Sick</i>	<i>Luke 17:11-17</i>
<i>Week 9 - 1/26</i>	<i>...with the Poor</i>	<i>Luke 21:1-4</i>
<i>Week 10 - 2/2</i>	<i>...with an Adulterous Woman</i>	<i>John 8:1-11</i>
<i>Week 11 - 2/9</i>	<i>...with the Religious Leaders</i>	<i>Luke 11:37-54</i>
<i>Week 12 - 2/16</i>	<i>...with an Outcast</i>	<i>Luke 8:40-56</i>
<i>Week 13 - 2/23</i>	<i>...with Two Thieves</i>	<i>Luke 23:32-43</i>





Encounters with Jesus

Key Messages

Week 1 - 12/1	... with Shepherds	<i>Common Man - Access to God</i>
Week 2 - 12/8	... with Tax Collector	<i>Selfish/Dishonor - Selfless/Honor</i>
Week 3 - 12/15	... with Woman of the City	<i>Guilt - Forgiveness/Peace</i>
Week 4 - 12/23	... with Wise Men	<i>Worshiped - Worshiper</i>
Week 5 - 12/29	... with Centurion	<i>Position - Faith/Authority</i>
Week 6 - 1/5	... with Woman of Samarian	<i>Outsider - Insider</i>
Week 7 - 1/12	<i>Guest Speaker</i>	
Week 8 - 1/19	... with the Sick	<i>Physical Illness - Spiritual Health</i>
Week 9 - 1/26	... with the Poor	<i>Poor - Riches</i>
Week 10 - 2/2	... with Adulterous Woman	<i>Accused - Release</i>
Week 11 - 2/9	... with Religious Leaders	<i>Pride - Humility</i>
Week 12 - 2/16	... with an Outcast	<i>Weak - Strength</i>

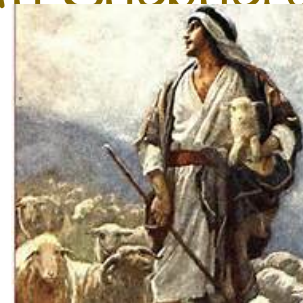




Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...with Shepherds



Luke 2:8-20

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*14 "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

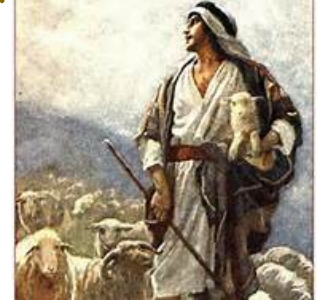


Encounters

with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...with Shepherds



Who were shepherds in Bible Times? their role?

Bible mentions shepherds and shepherding over 200 times. Shepherds led sheep to pasture and water ([Psalm 23:1](#)) and protected them from wild animals ([1 Samuel 17:34-35](#)). Shepherds guarded their flocks at night whether in the open ([Luke 2:8](#)) or in sheepfolds ([Zephaniah 2:6](#)) where they counted the sheep as they entered ([Jeremiah 33:13](#)). They took care of the sheep and even carried weak lambs in their arms ([Isaiah 40:11](#)).

For days on end, shepherds would work and sleep outdoors, allowing the flock to graze on the steep green slopes. Spending the nights guarding the open sheepfolds. At times, the shepherd might shelter his flock overnight in a cave, where they would be protected from jackals and hyenas

Each evening, the shepherd counted the sheep and checked the health of the animals. In the morning, he would call, and the flock would follow him to the pasture ground. Shepherds led the animals to cool pools of water to drink. When the pools dried up, the shepherd guided them to a well and drew water for them.

In Bible times the sheep cared for by shepherds represented wealth. They provided food ([1 Samuel 14:32](#)), milk to drink ([Isaiah 7:21-22](#)), wool for clothing ([Job 31:20](#)), hides for rough clothing ([Matthew 7:15](#)), and leather for tents ([Exodus 26:14](#)). Furthermore, sheep were major offerings in the sacrificial system ([Exodus 20:24](#)). They were offered as burnt offerings ([Leviticus 1:10](#)), sin offerings ([Leviticus 4:32](#)), guilt offerings ([Leviticus 5:15](#)), and peace offerings ([Leviticus 22:21](#)).



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

- *What was their defining characteristic?
Heaven comes in contact with the 'Common Man'*
- *What was their reaction to this encounter with Angels?*
- *What was their reaction to this encounter with Jesus?*

Look at the Application

- *Why did the Spirit choose to include this encounter?*
 - *"... bring you good news (gospel) of great joy for ALL the people...."*
 - *"... a savior.... christ (the messiah)"*
"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6
 - *We learn about who Jesus is.... Both God and Man*
⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,^[a] ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,^[b] being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. —
Phil 2:5-8

...with Shepherds





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Implication

...with Shepherds



- *How can we encounter Jesus in our Daily Lives?*

• *As the Common Man – we now have access to God*

“¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,^[d] but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by^[e] the Spirit. – Eph 2:13-22

• *As the Common Man – we now have joy in the ‘Good News’ of a Savior*

“⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. – 1 Pet 1:8-9



Encounters with Jesus

...with Tax Collector



Look at the Encounter

Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...with Tax Collector



Jericho

- Route of travel between Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem
- Agricultural City – “City of Palms”
- Cross Roads – 3 Jewish Fort in 63 AD
- Marc Antony gave a gift to Cleopatra
- Herod’s Winter Palace
- Discovered - Hippodrome; Baths; Tiled Courtyards
 - Synagogue; Ritual baths

Jesus on a Journey

- Frequently traveled road
- Last trip - on his way to Jerusalem
- Overwhelmed by people – sick/afflicted; parents/children; on-lookers/curious
- Healed the Blind man on edge of town
- ‘Scandalous’ man - challenging rulers, tradition, speaking against rich

- Welcomed to city by Elders/Officials





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...with Tax Collector



Who were tax collectors in Bible Times? their role?

Many taxes were required from the provinces to administrate the Roman Empire... to pay for roads, law and order, security, and other government benefits

The provinces (i.e. Judea was in Syria) were to carry the heavy weight of administering the Empire. Every man was to pay 1% of his annual income for income tax. There were also import and export taxes, crop taxes (1/10 of grain crop and 1/5 of wine, fruit, and olive oil), sales tax, property tax, emergency tax, and on and on.

During the time of Jesus in first century Israel, there were publicans and tax collectors who could walk up to a man and tax him for what he was carrying, and much more.

A Roman official (censor) was ultimately responsible to Rome for collecting the revenue but he sold the rights to extort tax to the highest bidders... the Chief Tax Collectors, who would farm out the duties to others...

They would turn over the required amount of money, and whatever they could add on for themselves is what they kept.



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...with Tax Collector



- *What was their defining characteristic?*
Selfish; Lover of Money; Oppressor of people

- *What was the reaction of others around them to the Tax Collector?*
 - *They were known to be extortioners of large sums of money.*
 - *Because of their relationship to Rome (gentiles) – they were hated for their domination, and the burden they placed on the people (against God).*
 - *They were treated similar to the worst kinds of sinners and prostitutes.*

- *What were Tax Collectors seeking?*
Money. Power, Favor with Rome...

- *What do we know about Zacchaeus?*
 - *Chief Tax Collector*
 - *Short of “stature”*
 - *height - or - social status*
 - *could not get through the crowd – so he climbed a tree... in a tunic*



Encounters

with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...with Tax Collector



- *How did Jesus look at him?*

- *Called him by name*
- *Selected his house to attend (be welcomed into the city) – over the elders of city*
- *Worthy of socialization – vs. others view of him*
- *Provided honor to the dishonored...*
- *Identified him as “a child of Abraham” – not an outcast, but a true child of God*
- *“salvation has come to this house” – restoration/rescue of the outcast*

- *What was others reaction to this encounter with Jesus?*

- *Can you hear the buzz.... “He socializes with sinners...”*
- *Snubbed the city leaders... in favor of a tax collector*
- *Confusion about honor – and shame....*

- *What was Zacchaeus’ reaction to this encounter with Jesus?*

- *Differing opinions on the grammatical ‘tense’ of his comments to Jesus.*
 1. *“I WILL GIVE....” - Did this encounter change him from selfish to unselfish?*
 - *impact of acceptance/grace –yields grace and desire for righteousness*
 - *contract with rich young ruler (Lk 18:22)*
 2. *“I GIVE... - He already was someone who practiced charity and righteousness*
 - *shock to learn that even this ‘unclean’ tax collector is a son of Abraham - righteous*
 - *His name – Tzadaqa - is Greek form of Hebrew word for - righteous*



Encounters with Jesus

...with Tax Collector



Look at the Application

- *Why did the Spirit choose to include this encounter?*

- *Jesus is the Savior of sinners – came to seek and save the lost*
- *Jesus is a friend to those others consider outcasts – looks at heart not reputation*
- *Jesus' grace/welcome/acceptance – changes our selfishness to selflessness*
- *The true 'child of Abraham' (follower of God) is found in the grace they extend to others*

Look at the Implication

- *How can we encounter Jesus in our Daily Lives?*

• *As a "Son of Abraham" – doers of God's will*

He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." – Luke 8:11

Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God" – Acts 10:4

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. - Acts 10:4



Encounters with Jesus

...woman of the city



Look at the Encounter

Luke 7:36-50 (NIV)

- 36** When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. **37** A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. **38** As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.
- 39** When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."
- 40** Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.
- 41** "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"



Encounters with Jesus

...woman of the city



Look at the Encounter

Luke 7:36-50 (NIV)

43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

48 Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

49 The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

50 Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...woman of the city



What do we know about Simon? his role?

*Pharisee – religious (and political) sect, school of thought - name denote separatists
– “Disciples of the wise”*

Larger party – non aristocrats; mostly middle-class business men; seen as closer to the people (common man) ; Powerful, decision making authority on Sanhedrin (although not the majority group)

Strict obedience to the law (Torah) – word of God was inspired; God in control; individual choice; resurrection of the dead –and afterlife –(reward and punishment) based on individual behavior, demons/angels; ceremonies observances

Gave equal authority to oral tradition (Talmud) – Moses given understanding off the interpretation of law – passed as oral traditions then codified and written down 3 centuries after Moses

Believed in/seeking a Messiah – herald era of world peace

Two-faces? – to his face respectful; in his mind doubting/accusing

•- *What was there defining characteristic?*

– ***religious; form of righteousness; appearances***



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...woman of the city



- *What was Simon seeking?*

Social Status; Recognition; Approval

- *What do we know about the woman of the city?*

Woman - lived a sinful life...

Remorse/regret – guilt lead to action

- *What was her defining characteristic?*

- ***Sinful; guilt/regret; action-oriented***

- *What was she seeking?*

Opportunity to express her love; regret; worship

- *What was the reaction of Simon to Jesus' encounter with the Woman?*

- *She is sinner... looked at her with disdain - "Holier than thou"*
- *He allowed it to happen – why?*
- *Challenged Jesus role as prophet*



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...woman of the city



- *How did Jesus look at Simon?*

Saw him for who he was...

Opportunity to teach – to contrast:

Faith - from external appearances;

Love - from tradition

- *How did Jesus look at the woman?*

Saw him for who she was...

Opportunity to teach – to contrast:

Seeker – from 'Religious';

Action - from Privilege (served)

- *What changed based on this encounter?*

Woman – forgiven of her sin; released from her "life of sin" – regret to "peace"

Remorse/regret – guilt lead to action



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...woman of the city



- *Why did the Spirit chose to include this encounter ?*

*Contrast these two individuals and lifestyles
Surprise us with which one is given peace
Demonstrate LOVE over LAW
Role of recognizing our sin and ACTING*

- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

*Sees us for who we are ...
Worthy of our gifts/service
Grants forgiveness of Sins – “Who is he that he forgives sin?”
Grants Peace*

- *How can we encounter Jesus?*

*Are we more like the Pharisee or the Woman?
What gifts do we bring?*

What service do we provide to DEMONSTRATE our REGRET/LOVE?



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:
⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.””**





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



What do we know about the “magi” - wise men

The word magi is derived from Old Persian maguš; The term refers to the priestly caste of Zoroastrianism. As part of their religion, these priests paid particular attention to the stars and gained an international reputation for astrology, which was at that time highly regarded as a science.

From the east... traditionally Babylonia, Persia, India or Jews from Yemen

- *Melchior - a Persian scholar; Caspar - an Indian scholar; Balthazar - an Arabian scholar.*

The same word is given as sorcerer and sorcery when describing "Elymas the sorcerer" in Acts 13:6–11, and Simon Magus, in Acts 8:9–13.

Most bazaar interpretation I found - According to Ancient Alien Theory, the Magi, like Jesus, were all aliens - the Star of Bethlehem a UFO

Kings with gifts? Pm 72:11 - May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts.¹¹ May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.

- - *What was their defining characteristic?*
 - *international, joyful seekers; wealthy; worshipers*



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

wise men



What do we know about Herod?

Herod the Great - born around 74 BC; Lived a decadent lifestyle

Considered himself of the Jewish faith, he was not considered Jewish by the observant and nationalist Jews; but his brutality was condemned by the Sanhedrin

He enjoyed the backing of Rome. represented both Jews and non-Jews in region

He was elected "King of the Jews" by the Roman Senate

Married to try to win Jewish favor – banished his previous wife and child ; killed her and other members of his household

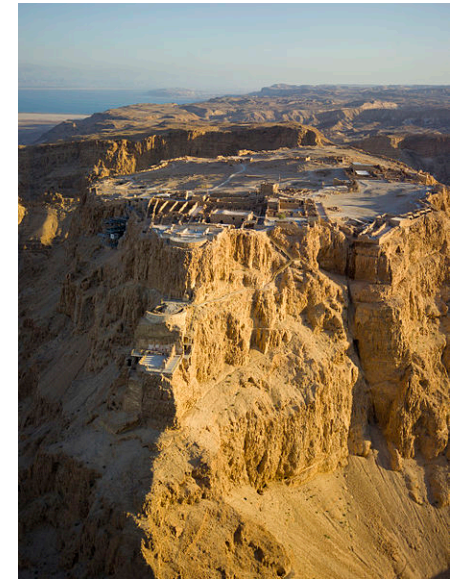
Builder - rebuilt temple; other places of worship, fortresses (Masada)

When he was outwitted by the Magi, he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under – Matt 2:16-18

- - *What was his defining characteristic?*
 - *desire for power & control; and would do whatever it takes to maintain it*



2nd temple



Masada

Some of Herod's Architectural Achievements



Caesarea Maritima



Acropolis of Herodium



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

- *When and Where was the encounter?*

Bethlehem? Child? "In a house..."

- *How did the world look at the Magi?*

Seers; great insight; worthy to be worshipped

- *What were the Magi seeking? Why?*

The "King of the Jews" – to worship... as God or a new King???

- *What was the significance of the gifts they brought?*

Gifts to a King –

Gold - as a valuable.- symbol of **kingship** on earth

Frankincense - as a perfume/ incense, - symbol of **deity**

Myrrh - an anointing (or embalming) oil, - symbol of **royalty and death**

- *What was Herod seeking? What action did he take?*

To eliminate his competition; those that might oppose him as "King of the Jews"

Massacre of children in the region





Encounters

with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

wise men



- King of the Jews?? ...

- *Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." Matt 2:1b-2*
- *So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. Luke 23:3*
- *But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?" John 18:39*
- *Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face. John 19:1-3*
- *It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. John 19:14*
- *The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." Luke 23: 36-37*
- *Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." John 19:19-22*



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

wise men



- *Why did the Spirit chose to include this encounter ?*

Global recognition of His royalty

“His” Star – the cosmos recognized its King

Contrast to the image of the shepherds experience – access ... but he is a King

*Identify who he is - **the ‘King of the Jews’***

- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

“Royal” – but a different kind of King

Deserving of gifts and worship

- *How can we encounter Jesus?*

What gifts do we bring?

How do we worship this King?



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

Luke 7:1-10 (NIV)

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.

...centurion





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

Luke 7:1-10 (NIV)

That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

...Conturion





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



What do we know about a centurion?

Part of Roman occupation in area – Rome gave Judea a free hand in ruling self as long as here were no uprisings, taxes were not interrupted or trade route between Egypt and Syria

Officer in Roman Army – very sophisticated and well organized (modern tactics, cavalry support, engineering and supply chains)

-Army built around “legions” of about 4800 infantry + support corps, engineers and cavalry

-Legion sub-divided into “cohort” of about 480

-Cohort divided into “centuries” of about 80; each lead by Centurion; divided cohort into squads of 8

Backbone of army – average to serve for about 20 years – took 10-15 to become Centurion; Helmet creased from right to left (vs. front to back); carried a “vitis” (vine branch) symbol of authority; served as leader, trainer and disciplinarian for century; lived with troops outside the city

Roman citizen; well paid (10x troops); took oath to success of Rome; selected for size, strength and dexterity no throwing weapons and skill in use of sword/shield

Represented Rome, occupation – ensure taxes collected, could confiscate property; or force labor from population; on the ground – making day by day decisions

•- What was their defining characteristic?

– power, position, authority, fear



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...centurion



What do we know about THIS centurion?

In Capernaum – worked with the city elders (they knew him well); Jesus lived there, so he most likely knew (of) him as well

He had slaves (15% of population rural areas to 30% in urban centers); often counted as family they were also cheap (about 1 weeks wages for this man); limited medical care and life expectancy was less than 30 years

Elders report he “loves our people”; built the synagogue (a civic benefactor); respect for the community of jews

Requested the elders approach Jesus. Why?

- Out of duty? - he is NOT a citizen*
- Leverage? - Jesus would not deny the city elders?*
- He is a Gentile; but understands the boundaries of the Jewish law; practices compassion?*

Knew of Jesus and sought Him out for help...

- *- What was his defining characteristic?*
 - power, position; authority; compassion?; faith*



Encounters

with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Centurion



- *How did the world look at THIS Centurion?*

Mixed – fear; hate... respect; concern

- *What was he seeking?*

Healing...

- and Jesus agrees to come and help BUT on His way to the house – stopped from entry by friend with message:

“Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did consider myself worthy to come to you...”

What does this tell us about the man?

- Respecting religious boundary; humility; understood something different about Jesus

“But say the word and my servant will be healed...”

What does this tell us about the man?

- Man of faith

“For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

What does this tell us about the man?

- Understands Jesus has authority & power – similar but greater than his own



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Centurion



- *Why did the Spirit chose to include this encounter ?*

Jesus was willing to take the social risk (beyond the tax collector) to interact with gentiles

Jesus applauds faith wherever He finds it

Jesus has authority & power – even greater than Rome

Public display – of Gentile faith

- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

Worthy of respect – authority and power

Responds to faith action

- *How can we encounter Jesus?*

In faith – that recognizes authority



Encounters with Jesus

...Samaritan woman



Look at the Encounter

John 4:1-42 (NIV)

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)



Encounters with Jesus

...Samaritan woman



Look at the Encounter

John 4:1-42 (NIV)

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

“I have no husband,” she replied.



Encounters with Jesus

...Samaritan woman



Look at the Encounter

John 4:1-42 (NIV)

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks”.



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Samaritan woman



John 4:1-42 (NIV)

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Samaritan woman



What do we know about this woman?

From Sychar in Samaria

- extends for about 40 miles (65 km) from north to south and 35 miles (56 km) from east to west. It is bounded by Galilee on the north and by Judaea on the south; on the west was the Mediterranean Sea and on the east the [Jordan River](#).
- In [New Testament](#) times Samaria was under Roman control and was to some extent a centre for Hellenistic culture
- – Jacob's well - [Jewish](#), [Samaritan](#), [Christian](#), and [Muslim](#) traditions all [associate](#) the well with [Jacob](#). The well is not specifically mentioned in the [Old Testament](#), but [Genesis 33:18-20](#) states that when Jacob returned to Shechem from [Paddan Aram](#), he camped "before" the city and bought the land on which he pitched his tent. Biblical scholars contend that the plot of land is the same one upon which Jacob's Well was constructed.





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Samaritan woman



What do we know about this woman?

Samaritan

- mixed race people, who had intermarried with the Assyrians centuries before. They were hated by the Jews because of this cultural mixing, and because they had their own version of the Bible and their own temple on Mount Gerizim.
- Viewed with skepticism and prejudice (Northern kingdom – land of Ahab and Jezebel)
- Paganism and other religious impurity
- Rejected some of the writing of the prophets, histories (Kings, Chronicles), wisdom literature (Proverbs and Psalms) – because of emphasis on Southern Kingdom; only first 5 books were used
- Worship – in new temple in Gerizim – rejected Jerusalem as place of worship/pilgrimage
- After Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem, their offer to help restore city was rejected in Ezra 4
- Alexander the Great conquered Palestine (330 BC) made Samaria an important base – find anti Jewish allies
- Jews attacked (128BC) – destroyed Shechem, burned temple.... Samaritans (6BC) during passive sneaked into temple in Jerusalem and scattered bones – unclean and unsuitable for worship

What was her defining characteristic?

- **mixed race, impure, starkly different than Jesus**



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Samaritan woman



- How did the **Jewish** world look at his woman?

Boundaries

- Rabbi – knew the expectations - to protect race, honor, social status;
- man-woman – not speak in public – to protect purity of families moral values, remove potential for accusations...
- reputation – unrighteous....

This encounter is to be avoided ...

Woman is surprised...

Disciples surprise to find him talking to her... know this is irregular

- *What was she seeking?*

Well – private domain of the women....

Duty in community

Social Interaction – for women this was the meeting point

Avoid this man – Jewish man... limiting access to the well

Water

odd Hour – isolated from other woman?

...How can you ask me for a drink???



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Samaritan woman



- *What was she seeking?*

He offered – “Living Water” something different – water that flowed – in a spring, river or stream p directly from the hand of God – only water that could be used in ritual washings to make pure worshipers; one drop could make impure water clean again.

Jesus offered her water that was not available to her – physically; spiritually

- *What is the significance of his revelation of her lifestyle?*

Makes her aware of His knowledge of her defining characteristics

- *What is the significance of her challenge about worship?*

*Highlights again the differentiating factor - the CORE boundary between them
In this that He reveals the CORE ‘spiritual’ truth – God is Spirit – his worshipers must worship in spirit and truth He is the messiah!!*

- *Why did the Spirit chose to include this encounter ?*

Encounter with the unclean (OUTSIDERS) - offers of the water that will cleanse and restore (INSIDERS)

Removes barriers – race, history, gender... even worship traditions

Identifies the Messiah who comes to... bring water to restore us....and explains to us how to worship... “in spirit”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

Who he is The Messiah

What he brings.... "living" water

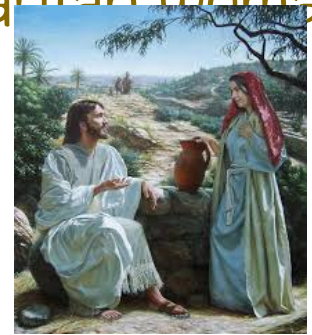
How we can approach Him.. "In spirit..."

- *How can we encounter Jesus*

Give us that water....

Through our spiritual worship

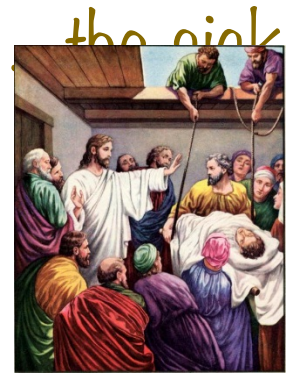
...Samaritan woman





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



Luke 4:40-41 (NIV)

40 At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. 41 Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

Impure Spirit – Luke 4:31-44

Leprosy – 5:12-15

Paralyzed – 5:17-26

Widows Dead Son – 7:11-17

Demon Possessed – 8:26-38

Dead Girl/Sick Woman – 8:40-

Demon Possessed Boy – 9:37-43

Crippled Woman – 13:10-17

Swelling – 14:1-5

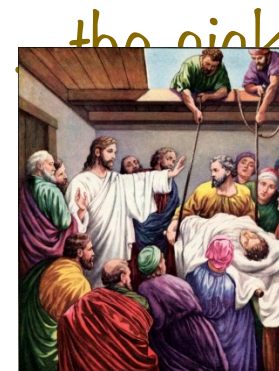
Lepers- 17:11-17

Blind Beggar – 18:35-42



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



Luke 17:11-19 (NIV)

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. **12** As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy^[b] met him. They stood at a distance **13** and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. **16** He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

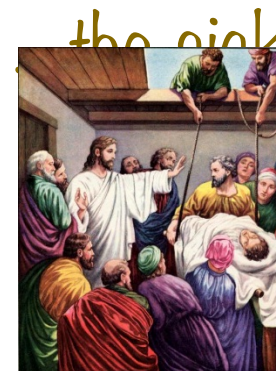
17 Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? **18** Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” **19** Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”



Encounters

with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



What do we know about this lepers?

A slowly progressing and intractable disease characterized by scabs or crusts and white shining spots appearing to be deeper than the skin. Disease of nervous system – spread by heredity, multiple skin contacts or respiratory secretions

Starts with skin then spreads to hands, feet, face, earlobes, resulting in "quick raw flesh." and disfigurement of skin and bones, twisting of limbs, curling of fingers (hand claw), thickening of outer ear and collapse of the nose.

Leprosy was incurable from a medical perspective, but there were five cases of lepers in the Bible being healed supernaturally.

Lepers were considered unclean and kept separated from the mainstream of Jewish society. Leviticus 13:45 instructs lepers to make their disease known to other people. "His clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, 'Unclean, Unclean.'" The cure of other diseases is called healing, of leprosy is called cleansing.

If the disease be proved to be absent, the freedom from the disease has to be declared by a ceremonial purification...not the ritual for cleansing the leper, for the Torah provides no such, ritual, but for declaring him ceremonially free from the suspicion of having the disease.

What was their defining characteristic as Lepers?

– ***pain, no hope, unclean, untouchable, separated, knew their place***



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

- How did the **Jewish** world look at Leper?

To be avoided – unclean

To be separated

Already dead....

- What were they Seeking?

Healing – pain to stop; progression of disease to stop

Cleaning – to be free from this life-limiting; life-destroying condition

Reconnection – to their loved ones; their lives; their community...

- What was unique about the one – his defining characteristics?

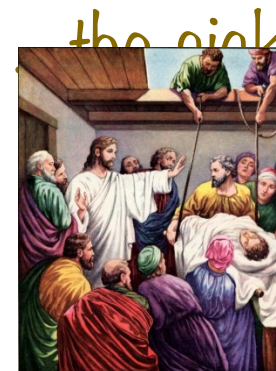
Returned to give thanks/praise

Foreigner – not expected to give praise to God

Recognized the source of his gift – cleansing... not the priests

Was a “changed” man – physically; spiritually?

Had Faith...





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



Luke 5:17-26 (NIV)

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. **18** Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. **19** When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

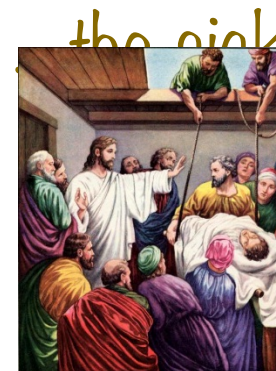
20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



Luke 5:17-26 (NIV)

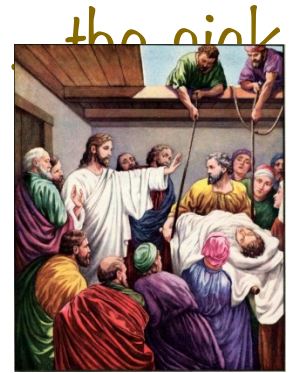
22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? **23** Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? **24** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” **25** Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. **26** Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

31 Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **32** I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



What do we know about this situation?

Jesus was teaching the teaching of the law and Pharisees

The power of the Lord was upon him to heal the sick...

Paralyzed man and his friends came with hope (and determination) to receive healing

What was their defining characteristic?

- afflicted, concerned, faith, determination

- What were they Seeking?

Healing – remove the affliction – of self ; of another



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



- *How did Jesus view the sick?*

In need of a Physician

Concerned for physical – but more focused on their spiritual need – forgive sin

Looking for & rewarded faithfulness – even in spite of conditions

Opportunity to touch, impact, teach and restore....

- *Why did the Spirit chose to include these encounters ?*

Demonstrates his Power to Forgive Sins

Encounters with the unclean - offers cleansing

Encounters the weak, in need and meets their need

Teaches us where healing and cleansing come from

Teaches us about what the eyes of Jesus are looking for – response/faith to God



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

Who he is The great physician – to heal life's conditions

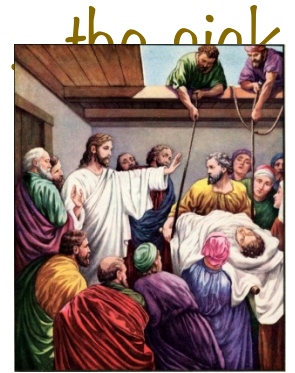
What he brings.... The source of cleansing - forgiveness

How we can approach Him.. Just as we are... in faith

- *How can we encounter Jesus*

Acknowledge our disease and need of a physician....

In confidence and faith – in gratefulness and praise





Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



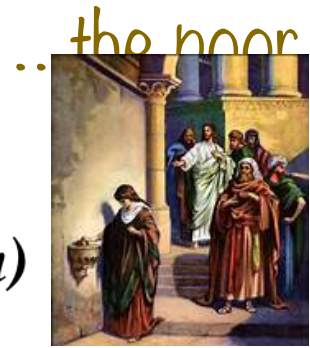
Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”



Encounters with Jesus

Jesus teachings about the Poor (Rich)



Always have the poor– Mark 14:7

- “...you will always have the poor...”

Rich Young Ruler – Mark 10:17-22

- “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven”

Rich Fool – Luke 12:16-21

- “...whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God...”

Rich Man & Lazarus - Luke 16:19-25

- “beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side...”

Clean outside of cup. – Luke 11:39-42

- “be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.”

Dinner Invitation – Luke 14:12-14

- “...invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed...”

Sheep/Goats – Matt 25:31-46

- “saw me... hungry, thirsty, stranger, in need of clothes, sick in prison...”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



What do we know about the widow?

No husband – source of income; alone?

Poor – all she had to live on

Gave everything she had - Loved God/Temple

What was her defining characteristic?

- **poor, alone, sacrificed – but it all into God's hands**

- How did Jesus view her?

Exceptional – offered a fitting gift

Praise worthy

Teaching opportunity

- Why did the Spirit choose to include this encounter?

Looks at the gift differently



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

Who he is Observer of the heart – beyond what the eye can see...

What he brings.... Gift of greatest value – worthy of our gift.... “Book-end Favor”

How we can approach Him.. Total sacrifice

- *How can we encounter Jesus*

Give....

Give it away... to become rich...





Encounters with Jesus

...Adulterous Woman



Look at the Encounter

John 8:2-11 (NIV)

2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Adulterous Woman



John 8:2-11 (NIV)

⁹ At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Adulterous Woman



What do we know about the woman?

Caught in the act

Frightened

On Display

Sinful

Deserved punishment

Leviticus 20:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ “If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.

What was her defining characteristic?

- ***sinful; accused; deserving of death***

- How did the teachers of the law and Pharisees view her?

Lowest of the low – someone to be judged

Rightly accused – deserving of destruction



Encounters

with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Adulterous Woman



- *How did Jesus view the her?*

Accused; Scared; a pawn in the teachers of the law's trap - to be used to accuse Him

Someone NOT to judge but to RELEASE from accusation

Teaching opportunity

- *Why did the Spirit chose to include this encounter?*

Others accuse us – wrongly or rightly... but

Jesus silences the accusations of others - he did NOT come to judge...

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17

46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. 47 "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. - John 12:46-48

To change our view of judgment day – Jesus is our defender



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

Who he is **NOT**..... Our judge – His words/teachings will judge

What he brings.... Release from accusations

How we can approach Him.. In freedom

- *How can we encounter Jesus?*

Without fear of accusation...

In response to this great unconditional love – “...go and leave your life of sin”

...Adulterous Woman





Encounters with Jesus

...Religious Leaders



Look at the Encounter

Luke 11:37-54(NIV)

37 When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. **38** But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

39 Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. **40** You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? **41** But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

42 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Religious Leaders



Luke 11:37-54(NIV)

43 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.

44 “Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it.”

45 One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also.”

46 Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

47 “Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. 48 So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs..



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Religious Leaders



Luke 11:37-54(NIV)

49 Because of this, God in his wisdom said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’ **50** Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, **51** from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

52 “Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

53 When Jesus went outside, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, **54** waiting to catch him in something he might say.



Encounters

with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Religious Leaders



What do we know about the religious leaders?

Pharisee

- "separatist" - may refer to their separation from Gentiles, sources of ritual impurity or from irreligious Jews.
 - emerged largely out of the group of scribes and sages
 - Josephus noted, the Pharisees were considered the most expert and accurate expositors of Jewish law
 - mostly middle-class businessmen
 - accepted the written Word as inspired by God
 - gave equal authority to oral tradition - all the way back to Moses
 - sought to strictly obey these traditions along with Law
 - believed that God controlled all things, yet decisions made by individuals also contributed to the course of a person's life.
 - They believed in the resurrection of the dead
 - They believed in an afterlife, with appropriate individual reward and punishment
- They believed in the existence of angels and demons

Teacher/Experts of the Law

- trained to develop, teach and apply the OT law. In the application of the law the oral teaching of these people often assumed greater authority than the written law



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Religious Leaders



- How did they view themselves?

Seekers of 'Truth' – defenders of (their version of) the "truth"

Aligned to God's Law/Will

Insiders – the Select of the Select people

Knowledgeable - at least more knowledgeable about God than others

Righteous – at least more righteous than others

Judges – of others behavior

- How did the people view them?

Aligned to God's Law/Will – knew the scriptures (could read and interpret)

Overlords – in community, government and religion

Hypocrites – in practice

What was their defining characteristic?

- educated; separatists; held a form of religion; holier than thou; condescending



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Religious Leaders



- *How did Jesus view the them?*

Woe to you ...

- *Clean the outside – NOT the inside*
- *Hold to letter of the law but miss the intent – “neglect justice and love of God”*
- *Love notoriety – love the most important seats and greetings*
- ***Unmarked Graves??***
- *Self Righteous - Load others down with burdens but do not help them...*
- *Think they have understanding – kill prophets and apostles who bring revelation*
- ***Taken away the key to knowledge*** – limiting those who ARE entering

And He said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' You leave the Commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men." And He said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the Commandment of God, in order to keep your tradition!" (Mark 7:6-9 RSV)



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

...Religious Leaders



- *Why did the Spirit chose to include this encounter?*

Who do you wish to relate to in the encounters we have seen?

Poor; sick; down-trodden; accused; outcast; common man....

In reality/practice - with whom do you share more in common? These or the Pharisees?

Where is the greater risk for your stumble/sin – and Jesus anger? Where is Satan more likely to attach you?

- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

He is **NOT**..... Impressed with those who call themselves religious or righteous

What he brings.... Anger for those with hollow faith; love themselves; not helping others

How we can approach Him.. In simple faith response to Him alone

- *How can we encounter Jesus?*

In simple truth – not our manmade laws/expectations

With the Eyes of Jesus – NOT man



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



Luke 8:40-56(NIV)

40 Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. **41** Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house **42** because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years,^[c] but no one could heal her. **44** She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



Luke 8:40-56(NIV)

46 But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”

47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. 48 Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

49 While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.”

50 Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



Luke 8:40-56(NIV)

51 When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. **52** Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

53 They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. **54** But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" **55** Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. **56** Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



What do we know about the woman?

Flow of blood for 12 years - Lev 15 – Rules for maintaining ceremonially clean

-Unclean – cut off for days

-Lies on, sits on

-Anyone who touches bed – must wash clothes, bathe – unclean until evening

Unclean – no sharing of furniture, food, water (covered), excluded from temple and social gatherings, unmarried/divorced = poverty, isolation, suffering

Romans superstition (Natural History by Pliny the Elder) – turns new wine sour, crops wither, dries seeds; fruit from trees; edge of steel; kills bees; rusts iron/bronze....

'You must keep the Israelites separate from things that make them unclean, so they will not die in their uncleanness for defiling my dwelling place, which is among them'. - Lev 15:31

Desperate – willing to take a risk – to make others (men – holy man) unclean - caught; scared of consequences

What was their defining characteristic?

- **outcast, cutoff, alone, 'dead', trapped by her condition**



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



- *How did Jesus view the her?*

Taking His power

Daughter

Someone with Faith - did not view her as 'unclean'

Did NOT judge but RELEASED from condition – which she cannot escape!

- *Why did the Spirit chose to include this encounter?*

Unclean flowed to infect the clean

God risked being unclean – to touch and heal – too allow His cleansing to flow to the unclean



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

Who he is **NOT**..... Repelled by our unclean-ness

What he brings.... Cleansing from our condition

How we can approach Him.. In boldness and weakness; we have no other choice

- *How can we encounter Jesus?*

ONLY choice for cleansing/healing...

**“...He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor...”**

- Isaiah 61:1



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



Luke 23:32-43(NIV)

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



Luke 23:32-43(NIV)

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”



Encounters

with Jesus Look at the Encounter



What do we know about the criminals on the cross?

Rightly accused

Deserved punishment – not just any punishment - crucifixion

On Display

Both Hopeless

One joins the mockers, maintains the arrogance of sin, seeks to put others down

The other admits his guilt, acknowledges Jesus' majesty and seeks His mercy

What was their defining characteristic?

- ***rightly condemned to die....***
arrogance in sin vs. humble (fear God) seeking mercy

- How did the people view them? How did the Law view them?

Sinners - Breakers of the Law

Deserving of Death



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter



- *How did Jesus view the him?*

With compassion;

Without condemnation;

With MERCY... Rewards his heart

- *Why did the Spirit chose to include this encounter?*

ALL OF US are criminals on the cross - we all deserve to die

We decide which criminal we are....

Arrogant to the end, still refusing to see who He is -or-

Convicted, broken, recognizing who HE is and seeing His mercy!

I'm Saved – like the criminal on the cross

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoZtIVwWMno&list=RDf2K36-jA2QY>



Encounters with Jesus

Look at the Encounter

- *What do we learn about Jesus?*

Who he is The ONLY WAY to paradise

What he brings.... TRUE Freedom

How we can approach Him.. Just as we are - In humility; in honor

- *How can we encounter Jesus?*

In our sin – in our humility – in our honor - IN HIS GRACE...

I'm at your Mercy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ySMJxkUOiY>

He gave her water...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCc_jVIKWt0&list=RDf2K36-jA2QY





Encounters with Jesus

Key Messages

Week 1 - 12/1	<i>... with Shepherds</i>	<i>Common Man - Access to God</i>
Week 2 - 12/8	<i>... with Tax Collector</i>	<i>Selfish/Dishonor - Selfless/Honor</i>
Week 3 - 12/15	<i>... with Woman of the City</i>	<i>Guilt - Forgiveness/Peace</i>
Week 4 - 12/23	<i>... with Wise Men</i>	<i>Worshiped - Worshiper</i>
Week 5 - 12/29	<i>... with Centurion</i>	<i>Position - Faith/Authority</i>
Week 6 - 1/5	<i>... with Woman of Samarian</i>	<i>Outsider - Insider</i>
Week 7 - 1/12	<i>Guest Speaker</i>	
Week 8 - 1/19	<i>... with the Sick</i>	<i>Physical Illness - Spiritual Health</i>
Week 9 - 1/26	<i>... with the Poor</i>	<i>Poor - Riches</i>
Week 10 - 2/2	<i>... with Adulterous Woman</i>	<i>Accused - Release</i>
Week 11 - 2/9	<i>... with Religious Leaders</i>	<i>Pride - Humility</i>
Week 12 - 2/16	<i>... with an Outcast</i>	<i>Weak - Strength</i>
Week 13 - 2/23	<i>... with Thieves</i>	<i>Hopeless - Hope</i>





Encounters with Jesus

***“...He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor...”***

- Isaiah 61:1