

HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

Discipleship – Part 7

Jesus and the Social Outcasts

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on discipleship. Our topic today: Jesus and the Social Outcasts

Scripture Theme Song: Come to Me – Matthew 11:28-30

Prayer

- 1) Reaching out to social outcasts
 - a) Luke 15:1-2
 - b) Why did the religious leaders criticize Jesus for keeping company with social outcasts?
 - c) Who might be included on our lists of social outcasts today?
- 2) The adulterous woman
 - a) John 8:2-11
 - b) What important lessons can we learn from the story about showing mercy to someone who has experienced a moral fall?
 - c) What other stories in Scripture remind us that God gives second chances to people who experience moral falls?
- 3) The marginalized Samaritan woman
 - a) John 4:5-32
 - b) How is this woman's situation different from the woman caught in the act of adultery?
 - c) What hope do you find in this story for your life today?
- 4) The unscrupulous tax collector
 - a) Luke 19:1-10
 - b) What impresses you about the way Jesus related to this unscrupulous tax collector?
 - c) Why was this tax collector more open to Jesus than many of the religious leaders?
- 5) The demon-possessed man
 - a) Mark 5:1-19
 - b) Why is it easy to want to give up on such people?
 - c) What promises remind us that God is stronger than the devil?
 - i) 1 John 4:4
 - ii) Deuteronomy 31:6
 - iii) 1 Peter 5:6-11
 - d) Why was the demon-possessed man such a powerful witness after he had been set free? Mark 5:20
- 6) Discussion questions
 - a) When you see a homeless person or a beggar, what is your natural reaction? Are you drawn to that person with a desire to help, or do you find yourself withdrawing?
 - b) How can we build bridges to people who are social outcasts without compromising our own values?
 - c) How can our churches become more welcoming to social outcasts?