

TELLING THE JESUS STORY WELL – PART VI
“The Relational Approach”
Mark 2:13-17

Befriending people, developing a relationship with people, getting to know people and earning the right to be heard is the essence of the relational approach to sharing the gospel. We gain insights into this methodology as we examine Jesus entering a relationship with Levi. In today’s teaching we will uncover nine principles that are crucial in developing relationships with people.

#1. JESUS ENCOUNTERS LEVI, vv. 13-14

- A. Jesus taught a large crowd, v. 13
- B. Jesus singles out Levi—the tax collector, v. 14
- C. A day in the life of Levi:

PRINCIPLE 1: Meet nonbelievers where they are with _____, _____ and _____

PRINCIPLE 2: The most _____ people become believers in Christ

PRINCIPLE 3: Jesus must be presented as _____ to people’s needs, hurts and life’s dilemmas.

#2. JESUS ENCOUNTERS LEVI’S FRIENDS, v. 15

- A. Levi had a party for Jesus
- B. Levi invited his friends (Luke 5:29)

PRINCIPLE 4: Levi is _____ about his relationship with Jesus so he introduces him to his friends at his house

PRINCIPLE 5: People tend to _____ with people like themselves

PRINCIPLE 6: Look beyond people’s _____, look at them the way _____ looks at them

PRINCIPLE 7: Jesus seems to be perfectly _____ in this situation.

#3. JESUS ENCOUNTERS HIS DISCIPLES, vv. 15-16

- A. Jesus was a teachable moment for his disciples
- B. Jesus has called Peter, Andrew, James and John thus far
- C. Jesus has made a controversial decision by calling Levi
- D. Jesus’ presence in the house of tax collector is taboo

PRINCIPLE 8: We don’t have the right to _____ the gospel from people because we don’t like them or disapprove of their _____

#4. JESUS ENCOUNTERS THE PHARISEES. vv. 16-17

- A. Their question betrays their ignorance of outreach, v. 16
- B. They thought they were spiritually healthy & righteous
- C. They were deceived regarding their spiritual condition
- D. The Lord Jesus came for sinners: those who accurately understand their spiritual condition

PRINCIPLE 9: Self-righteous people are the hardest to reach with the gospel because they are in spiritual _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What was it that attracted Levi to Jesus? What was it that attracted you to Jesus?
- #2. In what way(s) did you see Jesus as relevant to meeting your needs when you became his disciple?
- #3. Levi is so excited to be a disciple of Jesus that he invites his friends to meet Jesus. What is your current level of excitement that you have about introducing people to Jesus?
- #4. Jesus appears to be perfectly comfortable at Levi's party. How would you feel in this situation?
- #5. Why is Jesus' selection of Levi as a disciple unpopular with the other disciples?
- #6. What did the Pharisees think about Jesus being in Levi's house that was filled with other tax collectors and sinners?
- #7. Why did the Pharisees see themselves as spiritually healthy?
- #8. What do you think the disciples learned from this experience?
- #9. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

Welcome to Hillcrest Church

Love, Acceptance, Forgiveness!

*our gospel came to you not simply with words but
also with power, with the Holy Spirit
and deep conviction.*

1 Thessalonians 1:5

February 19, 2023

Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Thank you for visiting us this morning. We hope you have a blessed time of worship.

TODAY

Pastor Bruce is continuing the "Telling the Jesus Story Well" series. Today's message focuses on the relational approach to sharing the gospel.

AFTER TODAY'S SERVICE JOIN THE HILLCREST FAMILY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF NEW LIFE FOR JUDAH OLSEN

We rejoice with Aaron, Melissa and Kharis over the birth of their son. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

Prayer Meeting: Tuesday at 7pm with Pastor Tim Brooks

Session 2, Wednesday at 6:30 – 7:45pm: "Telling the Jesus Story Well" training with Pastor Bruce, Paul and Pat Milton. Go to the online meeting room on our website (hillcrestRoseville.com) to access the gathering.

PROJECT "WINDOW 23"

\$5,000 was the cost of the new windows. If you want to contribute to this project write "building fund" in the memo of your check. So far less than \$1,000 has been raised.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online (hillcrestroseville.com).

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Sunday, March 12th set your clocks ahead one hour

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS – APRIL 7th, 6PM

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 9th

EAST INDIAN DINNER – SATURDAY, APRIL 22nd, 5:30PM

Join the Hillcrest family for our annual East Indian Dinner, which features authentic East Indian food that is delicious! The purpose of the dinner is to raise money for missions.