
CHURCH ON THE MOVE

Acts 3:1-16

BIG IDEA

Our mission is to eagerly raise the dignity of everyone we encounter--knowing that true dignity is found only in repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

ICE BREAKER

Matt shared his story of feeling devalued at a school dance. He asked a girl to dance. She started looking at the dance floor for the boy she really wanted to dance with and then she said to Matt, "Well, if I can't dance with Tom I can make him jealous so I will dance with you." Other examples of being devalued would be emails that go unanswered--these are tastes of humiliation and real damage is done.

1. Think of a time you felt overlooked or devalued and then think about a time you felt valued. Share with the group one of your stories.
2. Reflect together on the impact for good and for harm that we can have on one another. In large measure our core lies at lit on fire by the stories of being devalued and the fire is put out through the Word of God and getting tastes of being deeply known and valued with others in the body of Christ.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We know our heart is pierced when we have a heart for others. Share the group who you have a "pierced heart" for. Your pierced heart could be for someone who does not know Christ or someone who is going through physical or relational suffering. Others may have a pierced heart for someone with an addiction or someone facing unemployment.

2. Next share who your heart may need to be pierced for (take some time to pray or to be quiet and reflect and see who the Holy Spirit may bring to mind). Express gratitude to God together for where your heart is pierced for others and together ask God to continue His “piercing work” wherever He makes that known to you. Make time for anyone in the group who wants to share an “action step” God has put on their heart today.
3. There are two unhealthy ways we can view our personal sin and one healthy way. The first unhealthy way is to put our sins in front of us and we are blocked. We say or think things like, “God, if you knew who I was you wouldn’t want me in your church.” In effect we are saying our sin is bigger than the cross and the resurrection of Christ. The second unhealthy way to view sin is to put behind us in a way that we forget we are sinners and we become proud. We imagine we are close to God because of our “good behavior” and we begin to judge other people. The third way to view our sin is healthy. The healthy view of sin is having a pierced heart over our sin and therefore our sin is peripheral. This means we don’t forget our sin nor are we blocked by it. Our focus is on the cross. So, instead of revenge against you when you sin against me I recall my sin and now I can humbly forgive you and love you. Which one of these three options do you tend to live in the most? If you have had good movement toward a healthy view of sin share what has helped you get that traction--we must learn from one another!
4. Share what tends to take you toward the unhealthy views of your sin. This entire topic of our view of our sin is spiritual warfare in the highest degree. We cannot fight this battle alone.

NOTES AND QUOTES

- The pierced heart is the foundation of the church.
- We know our heart is pierced when we have a heart for others. “A pierced heart becomes a heart for others.”
- Why does Peter include the phrase, “Jesus Christ of Nazareth”? The answer is that Nazareth to a Jew is lowly. No one of honor comes from Nazareth. Out of the lowly God raises up power and glory. You, beggar, have given up imagining for any deep healing.
- Those of us in Christ have the knowledge of what people need the most--it is the greatest power to change their life.
- 2 questions to ask with each miracle story are:
 - a. What is different about this miracle?
 - b. Who is this miracle for?