

JESUS Talks

Ideas worth spreading

JESUS TALKS Part 5: The Other Side Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[Matthew 5:43-48, VOICE]

You have been taught to love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ *But I tell you this: love your enemies. Pray for those who torment you and persecute you—* ⁴⁵ *in so doing, you become children of your Father in heaven. He, after all, loves each of us—good and evil, kind and cruel. He causes the sun to rise and shine on evil and good alike. He causes the rain to water the fields of the righteous and the fields of the sinner.* ⁴⁶ *It is easy to love those who love you—even a tax collector can love those who love him.* ⁴⁷ *And it is easy to greet your friends—even outsiders do that!* ⁴⁸ ***But you are called to something higher.***

[Luke 9:49]

*John said to Jesus, “Master, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because **he isn’t in our group.**”*

[Mark 5:1-20]

*So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. ⁴ Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones. ⁶ When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. ⁷ With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!” ⁸ For Jesus had already said to him, “**Come out of the man, you evil spirit.**” ⁹ Then Jesus demanded, “**What is your name?**” And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” ¹⁰ Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. ¹¹ There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. ¹² “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.” ¹³ So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water. ¹⁴ The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. ¹⁶ Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. ¹⁷ And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone. ¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into*

the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus said, “**No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.**”
²⁰ So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; **and everyone was amazed at what he told them.**

There is enough living bread for everyone. There is enough to go around; there is no lack!

Take-aways from Joe Steven's experience:

Love people.

Be available to hear his voice.

Represent him well.

- **Pray for your enemies by name** (*people on the other side*)

[Acts 10:27-29]

While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.

Peter:

*“You know I am a Jew. We Jews consider it a breach of divine law and are forbidden to associate, much less share hospitality, with outsiders. **But God has shown me something in recent days:** I should no longer consider any human beneath me or unclean. That’s why I made no objection when you invited me; rather, I came willingly. Now let me hear your story....”*

The world can never take from you what it didn't give you.

- **Pray for your enemies by name** (*people on the other side*)
- **Ask God to show you your personal “grace journey”**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. When have you witnessed, or even experienced, an "us vs. them" mentality? How did that affect you?**
- 2. How does culture tend to define us by "what we're for" or "what we're against?" How have you seen that?**
- 3. What is a ministry moment or story in Jesus' life where He went out of His way to reach someone? What was Jesus trying to show in the big picture?**
- 4. How do you think Jesus would respond to the state of our nation right now?**
- 5. Why are some of the most prominent principles of the Bible some of the hardest to carry out? (For example, why do you think Jesus emphasizes the upside down principle love your enemies and pray for those who harm you?)**
- 6. When have you had a "let's go to the other side moment?" In other words, when has Jesus directed you somewhere or into something where you were hesitant, or against how you were trained?**
- 7. What would it look like if everyone who bears the name of Christ responded how Peter responded in breaking down divisions?**
- 8. Pray for wisdom and strategy for one another in these perilous times in our nation.**