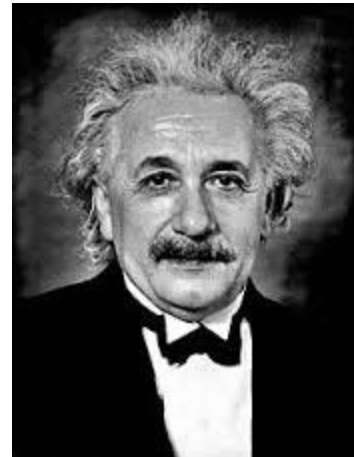
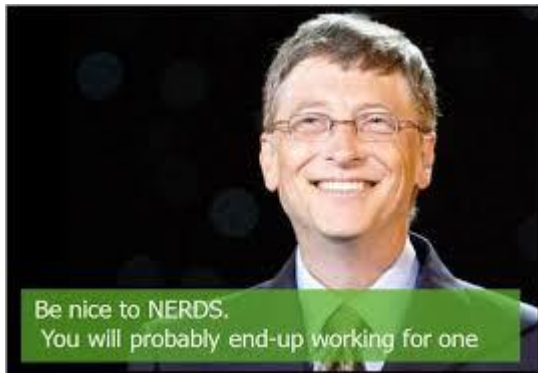


What do all of these people have in common?



LESSONS FROM THE OUTCASTS

I Have the Hope of Eternal Life
The Easter Experience
Week 5

Have you ever felt like you don't belong?

- When we go to a conference, party, school or other social event, we always hope we know someone there.
- Having someone we know there gives us a sense of comfort that at least we have someone to hang around with.



Outcasts in Biblical Times

- “Sinners”
- Lepers
- Tax Collectors
- Different Culture Groups (Samaritans)
- Lame, Blind, Deaf
- Possessed



Jesus Loved the Outcasts

- *¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.* Luke 19:10
- *⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”* Luke 19:7
- *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”* Mark 2: 17



Lesson 1: Meeting Jesus Changes Your Ways

- *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.*
- *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.”* Luke 19: 5-6,8



Lesson 1: Meeting Jesus Changes Your Ways

- *Zacchaeus publically vowed to change his ways after meeting Jesus and having Him into his home.*
- *Does our faith effect our actions?*
- *Since we have become a Christian, have we changed any of the ways that took us away from God?*
- *Do we let others know how our faith has changed us?*

Lesson 2: Proclaim the Greatness of God

- *Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.*
- *⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?”*
- *⁹ 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.)*
- *²⁵ The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”*
- *²⁶ Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”*
- *²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,*
²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward him. John 4: 6-7,9,25-26, 28-30

Lesson 2: Proclaim the Greatness of God

- *The Samaritan woman was so amazed and excited by her conversation with Jesus, she had to tell the people of her town. Many people came to believe in Jesus through hearing her story.*
- *Do we possess the same excitement for Jesus?*
- *Are we willing to tell others of the power and greatness of God?*



Lesson 3: Be Willing to Take a Chance

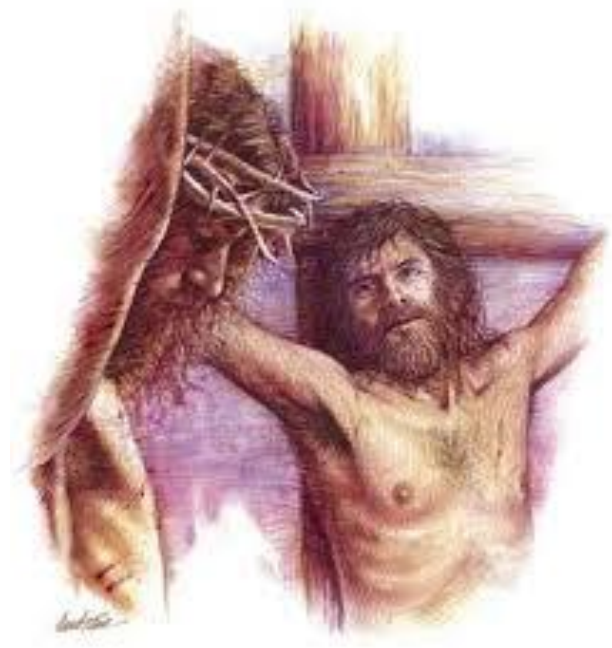
- *25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.*
- *30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"*
- *31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "*
- *32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."*
- Mark 5: 25-34

Lesson 3: Be Willing to Take a Chance

- *The woman is the story took a chance when she touched Jesus' robe. She did not know what would happen or how Jesus would respond.*
- *Do we take chances with our faith?*
- *Does the uncertainty of peoples' reactions hold us back from living out or sharing our faith?*
- *Are we nervous about the outcome?*

Lesson 4: Stand Up for God

- *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.”*
- Luke 23: 39-43



Lesson 4: Stand Up for God

- *The “good thief” was the only person to stand up for Jesus.*
- *His reward was a place in paradise with Jesus.*
- *Whatever he did to deserve to die, was washed away and he could die in peace.*

Do we deny or defend?

- *³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”* Matthew

10: 32-33

- Do we speak up for God and let others know of His love?
- When others are doubting God’s love or existence, do we try to help them to understand God’s love?
- Do we deny our faith?

Outcast of Heaven

- *We are all outcasts from heaven.*
- *We do not fit in to heaven because of our sins.*
- *Fortunately, outcasts have a special place in Jesus' heart. He died for us so we could become citizens of heaven and no longer outcasts.*
- *⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."*
- *Words we all long to hear.*