



Sermon: Keeping It Simple | By Pastor Tracy Pounders | November 27, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Religion has fostered a belief that you must change and join, but Jesus said join and then you will change. People who were nothing like Jesus, liked Jesus. Not only that, but Jesus liked people who were not like Him. What this shows is that God wants to connect with sinners. God's focus is to connect with people so they will connect with people.

Opening Prayer: Jesus, help me to see how simple it is to follow you. I want to follow you and assist others to do the same. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *The focus: Jesus was attracted to those who were far from Him. How can we live that lifestyle?*

1. Discuss a major achievement in your life. When you took the steps to achieve this, did it seem unachievable?
2. Pastor Tracy said Jesus liked people who were not like Him. Why do you suppose that was?
3. Why did people who were nothing like Jesus, like Jesus?
4. In Matthew 9:10 we see Jesus invites Himself to Matthew's house for a party. What opportunities do you have to expose Jesus to those who do not know Him? What is the best way to share Jesus to those who are not like Jesus?
5. Read Matthew 9:13. Explain what this verse means to you.
6. How can we witness to people using the method Jesus shows us in Matthew 9:13?

THINKING FORWARD

Religion comes with so many rules and preconceived notions that create hesitation for sinners to follow Jesus. What is most important is not what we do, but who we are following. Following Jesus is the most rewarding decision you can make. Will you follow Him today? Will you help someone else follow Jesus today?

VERSE TO GO

But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." **(Matthew 9:13)**

PRAYER: Jesus, thank You for making it easy to follow You. Help me to explain how easy it is to follow you because of who You are. Thank you for caring enough to make it easy to follow you. Amen.