

Video 6: "Hearing from Jesus" Matthew 17:5 | Book chapter 13

Before the Video: Each person take a moment to share with the group the insights and experiences you have had over the last several days as you sought to join Jesus on his mission in your everyday life. If you were able to interact with neighbors from any of your various neighborhoods, tell your story to the group. You can use the 5 Questions to help you get started.

- How did you see God at work this week?
- What has Jesus been teaching you in his Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians?
- What good can we do around here?
- How can we help you in prayer?

Processing Our Insights:

1) The Finke's introduced the 5 Mission Practices. See if your group can list them below.

- _____ the Kingdom
- _____ from Jesus
- _____ with people
- _____ good
- _____ through prayer

2) Today's video focuses on the mission practice of "hearing from Jesus." What Jesus said in the Gospels he is still saying today. And what Jesus did in the Gospels he is still doing today. So if we want to recognize and respond to what Jesus is telling us or showing us in our daily lives, it begins with us being familiar with what he's already shown us and told us in the Gospels.

- What in the video segment made the most sense to you?
- Why is "hearing from Jesus" a mission practice?

3) The Bible says that because our identity is in Christ through our Baptism, we can now know who we are and what we have. We are forgiven children of the King and we have been given the gifts of the Kingdom. We have been given abundant love, abundant grace and abundant goodness – things our broken world needs so badly. And because of who we are and what we have in Christ, we now know what we can do. We can look for opportunities to release a little bit of what we have in abundance into the lives of people who need it. The practice of hearing from Jesus in the Gospels helps us do that.

- Why do you think this is important to your life as an everyday missionary?

4) In the Gospels, Jesus disciplines his followers so that they can recognize and respond when the Kingdom comes near with an opportunity to offer a little grace or goodness. The Finke's suggest there are three main practices in which Jesus disciplines his followers. What are the three practices?

- _____ the Kingdom
- _____ ourselves
- _____ our neighbors

- 5) Over and over again, throughout the Gospels, Jesus disciplines his followers in these three practices: seek the Kingdom, humble ourselves, and freely love our neighbors who need it so badly. These practices are the foundation for the 5 Mission Practices the Finke's advocate.
- Why is humbling ourselves so important?
- 6) The video reminds us to love our neighbor out of the abundance of love which is already ours through Baptism. With the abundant love we already have as God's children, we look for those who need some love. Then we give to our neighbor some of what we already have in abundance. From God, through us, to our neighbor. Freely we have received, freely give.
- What difference does this make to you as you think about loving people nearby, especially your unlovable neighbors, co-works, classmates, etc.?
- 7) Every day we need Jesus' encouragement and challenge in order for us to take up his practices anew. This is why "hearing from Jesus" in the Gospels is so important. Starting tomorrow, which Gospel will you open and start following Jesus around in? What will he be able to show you? (Hint: it will have something to do with your true identity in Christ, and the invitation to seek the Kingdom, humble yourself and then love your neighbor.)
- Take a moment to ask Jesus which of the four Gospels he would have you open tomorrow and start following him around in? Matthew, Mark, Luke or John?
 - When you are ready, share with the group which Gospel you will be starting tomorrow.

Because of what Jesus shows you or tells you in the Gospel you will be reading, what will he be able to show you in your everyday life? Let's go find out!

Before We Go

Note: You may want to break into groups of three.

"A-Ha!" Insights to Action: What was the most significant insight you had as a result of today's video and discussion? Take **3 minutes** to write down your insight and what you think Jesus might be giving you to believe and/or do as a result. This is your self-identified assignment for joining Jesus in the coming days.

Have each person take **60 seconds** to share their self-identified assignment with the group.

In the coming days *watch for opportunities Jesus will give you* to put your self-identified assignments into play. The next time your group meets be ready to tell the stories of what happened (whether little or large).

- Also, give the group a brief update on how your planning and inviting is going for hanging out with a neighbor(s).

Ministering through Prayer: As we prepare to head out on our mission adventure with Jesus, have each person ask the next person, **"How can I help you in prayer?"** After everyone has had a turn to answer, each person then prays for their neighbor. Write the prayer request in the space below so you won't forget.