

The Inside Track

Luke 7:36-50

Introduction: What kind of person has the “inside track” on being chosen by Jesus to follow Him? Who is the best candidate?

Two Options:

The wealthy, influential, _____ man?

The notoriously _____ woman?

The answer? (Shockingly...) The “_____”.

But WHY?

Because the “moral” guy has some _____.

○ _____.

○ _____ - _____.

○ End Result: _____.

Because the “sinner” has some _____.

○ _____ - _____ ⇒ _____ and _____.

○ _____ - _____ ⇒ complete _____.

○ End Result: _____ and _____.

Conclusion: Which person do YOU resemble the most?

Icebreakers:

1. Have you ever had a job interview? How did it make you feel? Tell the story!
2. Did you ever meet someone whose physical appearance caused you to expect them to be one way, only to discover upon interacting with them that they were totally different from what you had expected?

Sermon Summary: The people with the “inside track” on being true followers of Jesus are not those who are the most moral, but those who have the greatest self-awareness (along with Jesus-awareness) and therefore love the most.

Discussion Questions:

1. It's easy in the 21st century to think of Pharisees as the “bad” guys – but in the time of Jesus's ministry, they were overwhelmingly considered the “good” guys – why is that?
2. Simon thought HE was the one “judging” Jesus's fitness to be a prophet. Do we sometimes treat Jesus like that? If so, how?
3. Do we ever send Jesus “mixed messages,” like Simon did? What does that look like?
4. Is there a difference between being “broken” when you become aware of your sin and being “defeated”? If so, what makes the difference?
5. How can we become more “Jesus-aware” in our daily lives?
6. How can a person who hasn't committed a LOT of sins (from a human perspective) embrace the mindset of the “sinner” in Luke 7?