



## CALLED OUT

### Week 1 | Called Out to Share

#### | KEY THOUGHTS

- Our word “church” is translated from the Greek word *ecclesia*, which means **“called out.”**
- Jesus said **he came to rescue those who knew they were sinners.**
- Many of the people who came to Jesus wanted him to meet their needs, but **it is only Jesus himself who can meet our true need.**
- Because of our self-leadership, our relationship with God cannot be restored - sin separates us from Him, and Jesus is the only answer to that; **no good work of our own can reverse what’s already been done.**
- The easy moral to the parable of the soils: be the good soil—that is, just do better. **But that’s not the gospel!**
- The real power is not in the soil, but in the seed. **No soil can produce a crop without receiving seed.**
- In whatever soil, the seed must die before it can bear fruit; **the penalty for sin is death, and Jesus took that upon himself on our behalf.**
- God doesn’t say, “Clean yourself up, and I’ll love you.” Rather, **he says, “I love you, so I will cleanse you.”**
- **Salvation is a gift to be accepted, not a wage to be earned.**
- Failure to work prevents us from receiving a wage, but **arrogance and pride prevent us from receiving a gift.**
- The seed didn’t penetrate the hard-packed soil along the path, which represented the hearts of the Pharisees.
  - We think of the Pharisees as the villains of their day, but actually **they were the moral conservatives who believed their goodness earned them God’s favor.**
- When the seed of the gospel takes hold in our lives, we can’t help but bear fruit; **when you’ve been changed in this way, you can’t keep it in.**

## **| SCRIPTURE**

Mark 4:1-20

John 1:1-5

John 12:23-24

Romans 1:16

Matthew 5:14-16

Matthew 28:18-20

## **| PRACTICAL**

- We often focus on our immediate problems and desires, unaware of our true need—our need of redemption, which only Jesus can give.
- When you want Jesus, you get Jesus! Get close to Him and stay close, and He will give you the gift of Himself.
- The Church (all people who are being transformed by the gospel) is called out for salvation—but we're also called out to share the gospel with others.
  - That's God's Plan A for taking His message of salvation into the world.
  - There is no Plan B.
- There are opportunities all around us to share the gospel; we don't need to pray for opportunities, but for the boldness to do what we're called to do.

## | REFLECT

- Do you compare yourself with others? Do you determine people's worth according to how they stack up to others? Do you see some people as being more worthy of God's mercy than others?
- Jesus surrounded Himself with the lowest sort of sinners, and when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them. Do I share that compassion? If not, why not?
- Think about the best news you've ever received. What did you do after you learned it?
- In John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world:" but in Matthew 5:14, he said to his followers, "You are the light of the world." When Christ's light is within us, it will shine out into the darkness around us. Will I hide that light, or go into the dark world where it can shine?

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