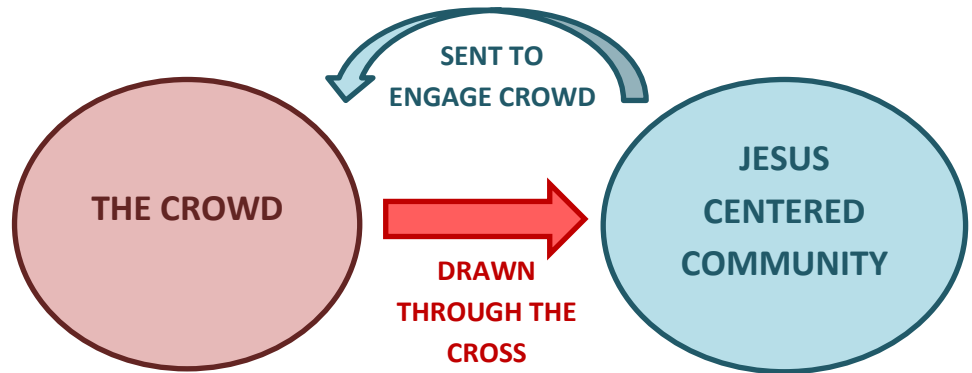


Discussion Questions Set #1

In sermon, we discussed that Jesus sought to engage people invitationally and relationally through His ministry, rather than focussing on exclusivity and ritual as did the Pharisees and religious leaders of Israel during His day. We also understood that we too are to mirror this invitational and relational posture in our own approach to the world around us.



“For [Jesus] himself is our peace, who has made the two groups [Jew and Gentile] one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility ... making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.” (Ephesians 2:14-16)

“Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” (Colossians 3:11)

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

1. In sermon, we discussed three possible barriers to engagement with the crowd
 - a. ethnicity and religion
 - b. social convention
 - c. assumed sinfulness.

How might these same barriers operate in our world today? What form might they take in the church in 2021?

2. Looking at the four verses above, what is suggested about barriers to the Gospel? What might a “barrier-free” approach to Christian witness look like?
3. What do you think might be **the** key barrier to engagement with the crowd for the church today?
4. What other barriers might exist for the church today in engaging the crowd?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” (John 8:10-11)

“God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him”. (John 3:17)

1. Why do you think Jesus was able to take an invitational and relational posture towards these women when no one else seemed able to?
2. In sermon, it was suggested that Jesus used a restorative posture in His interactions with others. Describe what a restorative posture looks like and the ends it seeks to see accomplished. What might a restorative posture permit the follower of Christ to do more freely?
3. Note that Jesus moved conversation to the heart of the matter creating opportunity to address issues of sin and restoration. Why do you think that we often “swing and miss” in this area?
4. In sermon, we discussed that, for Jesus, relationship led to invitation because of a passion for restoration in the lives of others. Is this generally mirrored in the church today? Why or why not?