

Life on Mission #2: “Open Your Heart; Open Your Home”

Jesus’ view from His home on the lake



Another beautiful view from Jesus’ lake home



Jesus opened His home for Bible study: *“And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that **he was at home**. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And **he was preaching the word** to them”* (Mark 2:1-2 ESV).

Jesus opened His heart to help hurting people:

He helped a paralytic: *“And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven’.”* Mark 2:3-6 ESV

The greatest obstacle between Jesus and hurting people is non-believing religious people, “some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts...’who can forgive sins but God alone?’”

Jesus shared His social life with non-believers (we call pre-believers)!

He preached the Word in the marketplace: *“He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he rose and followed him”* (Mark 4:13-14 ESV).

Jesus called His disciples AND partied with their friends: *“And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, ‘Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?’ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.’”* (Mark 2:15-17 ESV)

GREAT Commandment: Dr. Pharisee asked Jesus *“...which is the great commandment in the Law?”* And he said to him, *‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’* (Matthew 22:36-39 ESV).

Simple guidelines for Christians: LOVE GOD; LOVE PEOPLE!

*“If people like you they will listen to you. If they don’t like you, they will ignore you or discount your message. How do you become likeable? It’s simple: **LOVE PEOPLE.** When people know you love them, they listen to you.”* Rick Warren *The Purpose Driven Church*, 1995.

“Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care” Teddy Roosevelt. John Maxwell made this saying famous when he wrote, *“People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care”*. Maxwell would add, *“People may hear your words but they feel your attitude.”*

GREAT Commission: *“But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8 ESV)

As you sit by the lake and talk with Jesus He has three BIG asks in His call for us to be fishers of men:



- Will you develop a personal relationship with non-Christians; go into their world and invite them into yours?
- Will you follow My 1st & 2nd commands: Love God; Love People?
- Will you walk by the power of the Holy Spirit so that others will see ME in YOU?

Remember to *“Open Your Heart; Open Your Home!”* The true love of Jesus THROUGH US will make a HUGE difference in the world in which WE live!