



VINCENT CHURCH

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



EPISODE 6: "INDESCRIBABLE COMPASSION"

Set the Stage:

Jesus and his followers are met by a leper who has heard about the miracle in Cana and asks Jesus to heal him. Jesus then goes to Zebedee's house, and a crowd gathers to hear him teach.

The crowd attracts the attention of the Pharisees who come to see the new teacher for themselves. People show up with a friend carrying a paralytic on a stretcher.

Nicodemus encounters a healed Mary Magdalene and tells her he needs to speak with Jesus. Matthew has his closest encounter with Jesus yet.





Your sins are forgiven.



Session 7 Discussion Questions:

- Which part of this episode was the most different from how you imagined it being after reading the passage in Scripture?
- Leprosy is a corruptive, contagious disease of the body, crippling & corroding the flesh from within, and leading the person to isolation and, ultimately, to a slow and miserable death. Why do you think Sin and habits of sin can so often be compared to “leprosy” of the soul?
- Nicodemus struggled with his disciple to remain both faithful to the “old”, written Word of God while being open to the surprising new ways of the Spirit--walking the ancient roads while being open to novelty: “We can do both”. Many today err on the side of either extreme, dismissing the new so as to hold on to the old teachings, or dismissing the old teachings so as to be open-minded to new ways. Where do you find yourself in that discernment?
- There was a lot of compassion emphasized in this episode. From not giving publicly to the healing of a leper. How did Jesus preach about and show compassion? What differences do you think there are between compassion, giving, empathy and good will?

Scripture Study: Mark 2:1-12 (ESV)

Jesus Heals a Paralytic

1 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 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. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 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. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”— he said to the paralytic— 11 “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” 12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

Bible Exploration:

- Matthew 8:1-4 (Jesus heals a leper)
- Luke 12: 36-48 (The parable of the servants awaiting their master)
- Matthew 6: 1-18 (Giving to the needy and prayer)

