



Andy Passmore, 5.14.26

Jesus: The High Road Leader *Jesus Brought People Together*

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. – John 13:34-35

1: THE UNLIKELY TEAM

Jesus intentionally brought together people who would _____ naturally work together.

Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 2:14; Matthew 10:4

- Jesus' disciples included:

- FISHERMAN (blue-collar workers)
- MATTHEW, the tax collector (traitor and thief)
- Simon the ZEALOT (political revolutionary)

"Jesus knew bringing people together frees them to be who God created them to be."

2. TRUTH AND GRACE - THE NON-NEGOTIABLES

We cannot _____ truth and grace. Jesus embodied BOTH perfectly.

John 1:14; John 8:32; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 5:6

The Balance: Our MESSAGE is truth Our BEHAVIOR is love

Truth and Grace Cannot Be Separated:

- Without grace, truth loses its **penetration**
- Without truth, grace loses its **power**
- Without truth, we can only be **nice** to people
- Without grace, we can only **judge** ourselves and others

"Grace invites us to be free so the truth can set us free. Grace provides the glue that brings people together."

Mother Teresa: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them."



3: CONNECT BEFORE YOU CORRECT

Jesus ALWAYS _____ before he _____. Luke 19:1-10; John 4:1-42; 1 Cor 9:19; 2 Cor 5:20

People need to know **us** before they'll want to know **Him**.

The vast majority of people who develop a relationship with God, do so AFTER having a relationship with a Christian.

St. Francis: "Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words."

4: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES - THE ULTIMATE HIGH ROAD

Jesus took generosity to an _____ extreme. Matthew 5:38-44; Luke 6:27-28; 1 Peter 3:9

What Does "Bless" Mean? - Speak well of them - Want the best for them - Refuse to gossip

- Express divine favor toward them

We can never love our enemies unless we've **experienced** God's love personally.

5: SIX PRACTICAL WAYS TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

1. LOOK FOR THE _____ IN EVERY PERSON Genesis 1:27; Proverbs 25:11; Luke 23:39-43

- Everyone is created in God's image - Find the goodness and point it out

2. EXPRESS YOUR _____ TO EVERYONE John 6:11; John 11:41; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

- Say: "You're a gift from God" - Say: "I thank God for you"

- Gratitude makes people feel seen, appreciated, and valued.

3. LET EVERYONE KNOW HOW MUCH YOU _____ John 13:25; Matthew 3:16-17

- Don't assume people know - Show and tell people you care

4. _____ EVERYONE YOU MEET Matthew 16:18; John 20:21; Ephesians 4:29

- Encouragement raises someone's courage to meet their need - Flip discouragement to strength

5. SHOW _____ AND CONSIDERATION Matthew 18:12-14; Proverbs 15:1; Galatians 5:22-23

- Kindness is active, not passive - It conveys **safety, consideration, and compassion**

- "A gentle answer turns away wrath"



6. _____ **WITH AND FOR EVERYONE YOU CAN** Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 22:31-32; John 17:9-18; James 5:16

- Shows how much you truly value them - It's hard not to love someone you pray for

CHALLENGE

Jesus wanted to bring _____ of us back to _____. Ephesians 2:13; John 14:6; John 13:34-35; John 14:23

Jesus reached out to people who were _____, engaged with _____, and loved outsiders with compassionate _____

Table Discussion Questions

1. Who in your life represents the "Matthew" or "Simon the Zealot" – someone very different from you that God might be calling you to connect with?
2. Where have you been emphasizing truth over grace? What would it look like to balance both?
3. What's one practical way you can "serve first, talk later" in your community this month?
4. Who is one "enemy" (or difficult person) you need to start praying for and blessing?

