

THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF JESUS

Message Notes

Text: Matthew 9:14-26

1. Inappropriate about spiritual practices (14-17)

"Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" (Mark 2:18)

People in Jesus' day usually held the teacher responsible for the behaviour of his disciples.

Jesus' answers with three brief parables that all give us the same answer...

The bridegroom

"How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them."

The old garment

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment."

The old wineskin

"No one pours new wine into old wineskins."

All those things would be inappropriate according to Jesus. He's not saying fasting – or any other spiritual practice – is wrong; he's addressing motivation, pride and legalism...

2. Inappropriate about social customs (18-25)

"While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples" (Mathew 9:18-19)

All this is happening in Capernaum, the town where Jesus lived and based his ministry, where he owned a house (vs. 28, 32)

Jesus was completely inappropriate about social norms in his hometown. Consider the people who were his followers in this chapter alone: Matthew the tax collector and his friends (sinners); Jairus the Synagogue Ruler along with his wife and an unclean woman with a bleeding problem – one of the nameless greats!

She had been subject to bleeding for 12 years and *"had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse"* (Mark 5:26)

It's likely she'd had a continuous monthly period since puberty and was probably now in her mid-20s. Leviticus forbade intercourse with a menstruating woman and so it's likely that no one would marry her or, if she had been married, it's likely her husband had divorced her as Jewish tradition required divorce when marriages did not produce children. The Law forbade her to touch others or for anyone to touch her. She was considered perpetually unclean, had little or no social status and had been pushed to the margins of society. But she was desperate...

- Everyone she touched became unclean for a day
- Jesus became unclean for a day
- She was still considered unclean for 7 days after her healing

All this in a male-dominated society where women were considered less stable and emotionally weaker than men...

In the light of this Jesus is completely inappropriate as he treats her with great kindness and respect...

Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

And Jesus was just an inappropriate with what he did next...

Contrast:

—> Jairus had 12 years of happy times with his daughter.

The woman had 12 years of agony that seemed hopeless.

—> Jairus was an important man – the ruler of the synagogue.

The woman was a nobody (we don't even know her name)

—> Jairus was most likely wealthy as he was an important man.

The woman was poor because she spent her money on doctors.

—> Jairus came publicly to Jesus and his daughter was healed secretly

The woman came secretly but was healed publicly.

Both had their separate issues but were united together in their faith and in their desperation they REACHED OUT for a touch from Jesus.

Jesus was inappropriate in putting out the professional mourners

Jesus was inappropriate in taking the dead girl by the hand
(It made him unclean for 7 days)

Like the woman with the continuous bleeding this young lady had no status of her own in society apart from her father. But Jesus ignores social status and customs, and raises her from the dead...

Luke 8:55-56, *"Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened."*

3. Inappropriate about human reactions

"He ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened."

Matthew 9:27-31

"Their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region"
