



Sermon Discussion Guide
Backstory: Outsider Knowledge
Sunday, August 22, 2021
Based on Pastor Alex's Message

Introduction

We're continuing in a series called *Backstory*. In this series we're looking at stories of Jesus in which we could all use a little bit more backstory to better understand what we're reading. In this third lesson, we learn that we should gladly give up our insider status in order to follow Jesus as committed outsiders.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What sometimes drives you to want to be an "insider," or in the "in crowd"?

Hear God's Story

2. In Matthew 12:38-42 Jesus referenced stories His audience knew very well: Jonah and the Ninevites (Jonah 1-4), and Solomon and the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1-13).
 - a. Read Matthew 12:38-42.
 - b. Why do you think Jesus' original audience most likely assumed that they were a reflection of the "insiders" in these Old Testament stories?
 - c. Why does Jesus flip the script here and redirect them to the "outsiders"?
3. The first quality Jesus said we should internalize is to be like the outsiders of Nineveh: to be people of repentance. To embrace repentance as a lifestyle for continued spiritual growth, we learned that we should stay alarmed by our own sin, stay empathetic to others who sin, and stay amazed by God's forgiveness.
 - a. What are your thoughts on this, and why is this important?
4. The second quality Jesus said we should internalize is to be like the outsider, the Queen of Sheba: to be people of wisdom. To be people of wisdom is to put on a Christlike character in our inner life as well as our outer life.
 - a. Why does God want us to model His kind of wisdom in our lives?
 - b. What areas in your life need changing so you can better pursue and represent Jesus' wisdom?

Pray

5. Spend a few minutes in prayer as a group praying for what we've discussed, being sure to give God praise in addition to bringing your requests to Him.

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com