

THE BIG IDEA: We see people because Jesus sees people.The Take-Off

Have you ever overlooked something? We overlook stuff all the time.

Friday night, Sydney got a craving to play Chubby Bunny and so we swung by the grocery store to grab marshmallows. Of course, we couldn't find them, even when Wendy told us they were right in front of us.

When someone uses the phrase "If it was a snake..." you know you've overlooked something.

Hey teens and pre-teens? When was the last time you got a lower test score because you missed something in the instructions? You got in a hurry and overlooked a crucial detail?

We overlook things all the time, and usually to our downfall: overlooked tax deductions cost us more in taxes, overlooked expenses will kill a budget.

Well, in today's section of Luke, we're going to meet a man who overlooked God Himself and the reason Jesus came, and (hopefully) we'll take the wise approach of learning from his mistakes about how we can avoid the danger of overlooking Jesus.

1. A Pharisee and a prostitute

- a. Some backdrop: Simon was a Pharisee, and as much as we don't want to paint the Pharisees as the "bad boys of the Bible," it's hard when we keep reading stories where they are painting themselves that way
- b. This story is no different
- c. It wasn't odd for Jesus to eat with Pharisees, and it almost always ended awkwardly
- d. Again, this time is no different
- e. A woman (most commentators think a prostitute) came to Simon's house and things got awkward:
 - people commonly went to a house to hear leaders speak
 - they didn't do this if they were a prostitute and the house was a Pharisee's - that made this awkward
 - she stands behind Jesus and weeps, then eventually kneels behind him and wipes the tears from His feet with her hair
 - a woman letting her hair down in public was grounds for divorce - she didn't care
 - then she pours expensive perfume on Jesus' feet
- f. Note that nothing is being said during all of this, and when Simon does speak up, it's only in his head (v. 39)
- g. But Jesus answers with a parable - a story - about 2 people being forgiven financial debts
- h. One of \$40k, the other of \$4k (according to daily wages in NC)
- i. Which one would love the forgiver of the debt more? The one forgiven of the most.
- j. Simon got that right, but didn't make the connection to the awkward woman in the room, and so Jesus asked him a question that I want to ask all of us this morning: "Do you see this woman?"
- k. Simon didn't, and I will take it a step further and say that he didn't see the woman because he didn't see Jesus. At least not correctly.
- l. Overlooking people begins by overlooking Jesus, and Simon was guilty of both.
- m. I don't want us to be, so let's make some observations about what causes us to overlook Jesus and others

2. We overlook what we undervalue

- a. Maybe the surest way to overlook something is to undervalue it
- b. Simon didn't value this woman - she represented everything he wasn't and was working hard not to be!
- c. Obviously, he didn't want to see her because he didn't want to be her!
- d. This theme will get played out again later in Luke, but let's get a sneak peek in Luke 18:11-12
- e. The Pharisee in that story valued his procedures over people
- f. Here, Simon overlooked the woman because he didn't value her, but he also overlooked Jesus because he didn't value the meaning of what the woman was doing for Jesus: it wasn't just weeping and wiping and cleaning; it was repentance and worship and giving

3. We overlook when we're overbooked

- a. Have you ever tried to find something at the last minute or when you're in a hurry?
- b. It's so easy to overlook things when we're frantic and hurried and overwhelmed!
- c. I can't prove this from our passage, but my guess is that Simon wasn't a relaxed individual!

- d. There were so many procedures and laws in place that he probably had very little margin in his life
- e. Want to make sure that you never see others? Get busy. Wear yourself out. Burn the candle at both ends and, where possible, burn it in the middle, too!
- f. This is about margin, and the surest way to miss Jesus and miss others is to miss margin.
- g. Here are a few areas where we miss margin:
 - Generosity (2 Cor. 9:10-11)
 - i. God supplies, but if we burn through it, it's gone
 - ii. Spending 101% of what we make leaves no margin
 - iii. Over 2/3 of our country couldn't handle a \$1k crisis
 - iv. Pegging the needle in our finances leaves no margin for generous giving
 - v. This woman dumped a massive offering of perfume on Jesus - she had margin
 - Time (Psalm 127:1-2)
 - i. When our schedules are so full, we find ourselves with nothing left to trust God with
 - ii. Sleeping is not only a gift from God, but evidence that we trust God enough to sleep
 - iii. It blows my mind how busy we are, and how quickly we wear it like a spiritual gift
 - iv. Put some margin in your schedule and trust God
 - Prayer (Matthew 21:13)
 - i. There isn't one time of day that's better than the other, but you and I need to find our best time and give that time to God
 - ii. I've been so convicted over this one, and if Luke 5:16 says that Jesus OFTEN went off to pray, then how much more should I?
- h. The point here is that we need to be less booked in these areas - adding more margin allows us to really see Jesus, people, and situations

4. We overlook when we're insulated

- a. The most important part of this phrase is IN - when our lives are bent inward, we'll overlook people
- b. Simon missed this woman - and the Messiah - because he was concerned with himself
 - v. 39 / "if this man were a prophet" reveals that Simon had a preconceived idea of how a prophet should have acted in that situation
 - v. 40 / "tell me, TEACHER" Simon was concerned with his head, not his heart (didn't call Jesus "Lord")
 - v. 43 / "I suppose" It wasn't a win because it made Simon look bad
 - vv. 44-46 / Simon didn't serve Jesus because he assumed Jesus was there to serve him (as in his agenda, his status, his reputation)
- c. When we set up a system in which we are the hero, we'll be so focused inwardly on ourselves that we'll miss Jesus being the hero for others like this woman

The Landing

What does this mean for you and me? It means at least 2 things:

1. If you at times feel that you're overlooked, you can take comfort in the fact that Jesus saw this woman!
She may have been overlooked by Simon, but she wasn't overlooked by the only hero in the story, and neither are you!
 2. It means that we can't afford to undervalue others or overbook and insulate ourselves. It means that people matter to us because they matter to God, or, as the Big Idea sums it up: we see people because Jesus sees people.
- So let me wrap this up by asking you the same question Jesus asked Simon: "Do you see this woman?"
Don't overlook the people to whom Jesus is sending you!
John 4:35 / open your eyes and SEE the harvest!
People are all around you, and Jesus sees them and sends us to them.
We see people because Jesus sees people.
Let's pray.