



First Person Week Eight

Opening Prayer: *We look to you Lord Jesus, who lived a life of peace, and bore in your own body the judgment of our sin. You have been raised from the power of death by the Spirit of love. Jesus, Prince of Peace, you alone can reconcile us to God and then to each other. We look to you with hope as we set our hearts on unity in our church, city and nation, Amen.*

Talk It Over: The week we talked about the idea that what is in you will eventually come out. The love of Jesus will be obvious to a watching world. Contrast the love and joy that Jesus has given us to a world filled with anger and hate. When love and joy come out of us, we're going to stand out.

- Can you tell when you have responded to someone in anger or frustration and then connect that to something inside of you that is angry or frustrated?
- As a Christ follower, in what ways do you try and have love and joy be your response instead of anger or fear?

Read Luke 7:37-38 NLT

Judgment was brought to this woman who had approached Jesus in such a vulnerable way. Jesus wants Simon to see her humanity. Jesus wants to move people from the back wall to the table. Jesus valued women and men, Gentiles and Jews, rich and poor. Jesus looks beyond your fears and your sin and sees you. When Jesus sees you he sees the real you.

- Where in your body do you know you are loved by God just as you are? Maybe it's your mind or possibly your heart. Take a minute and see if you can identify that feeling of being loved.
- When you think of such an overwhelming love how does that make you feel?

John 7:47 NLT

Part of being human is experiencing shame and building a persona or a false self. Unfortunately we each realize at some point in our lives that hurt is possible and from that realization we build a persona that we think will keep us from getting hurt as often.

- Try describing yourself without talking about your role in the family, your career, or the things you have accomplished. None of these are bad, in fact they are a great part of our life, but just notice how difficult that can be.
- Are there ways you distance yourself or habits you have formed in order to protect yourself? Does doing so bring you safety, if so in what ways?

A lot of people we rub shoulders with have been conditioned to be scared or mean. They either hide from people or they hurt people. They build a persona to protect themselves – to keep people at a distance.

- Can you recall an interaction that you had with someone recently where you realized that there was more at play or his or her reaction did not match the context of the situation? Share a little about this.
- What ways can you show love to those who, because of difficulties in life, are responding out of anger and hurt verses love?

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, your power is motivated by love.

Your wisdom is established in love.

Your love, Lord Jesus, can and will empower us to run to you.

Free us from the shame of our sin.

Challenge: We would like to invite you to follow along with us as a church as we read through the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. You can do that through the eDevotional. <http://eastlakechurch.com/next-steps/edevotional/> If you have already started this reading, share some thoughts or insight about your experience this week.