By His Design

Understanding God's Design for Sexuality

Lesson 2:
What's
Our
Calling

Preliminaries:

Really important to listen well to each other.

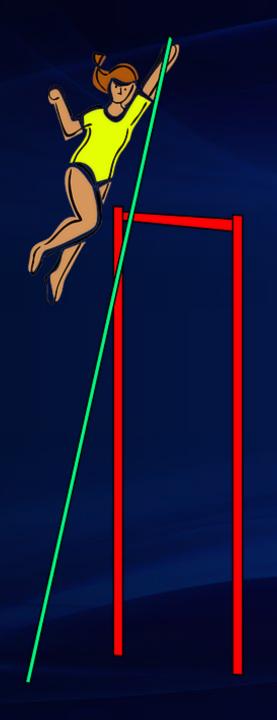
Jumping to conclusions can cause serious hurt.

Preliminaries:

We're not talking about an issue. We're talking about people. People made in God's image.

What's The Problem?





Jesus Set A High Bar

- High Righteousness
- High Connection

We've emphasized marriage between husband and wife.

Not Well:

We're not connecting with a group of people.

We've encouraged each other to honor God.

Not Well:

We've created a culture of shame.

Not Well:

We've created community environments.

We've not created safe places where strugglers can be open.

Not Well:

We've studied Scripture.
Taught it.

Losing a generation who thinks the Bible is good book.

Worship Jesus.

Not Well:

Not perceived as being like Him.

Luke 19:1-10 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ² There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich.

³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name.

"Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." ⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. ⁷ But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,"

they grumbled. 8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" 9 Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

What did Jesus Do?

He Intentionally,
Publicly
Ministered to
the Zaccheaus

- He Saw
- He Called
- He Engaged
- He Stood By
- He Ate With

What about **Zacchaeus?**

He just wanted to see Jesus, but he got so much more.

He was:

- Intrigued.
- Determined.
- Surprised.
- Excited.
- Joyful.
- Transformed.
- Saved.

What about The Crowd?

They were the ones who should have also been joyful.

They were:

- Blind.
- Upset/Indignant.
- Vocal to Each Other
- Grumblers.
- Missed the Blessing.
- Rebuked.

We must be like Jesus - holding to both righteousness and connection.

We must take the initiative. Our love must overcome stereotypes.

We must see the person, not the issue. We are Zacchaeus.

We must realize the good news is for all, and because it is, it is messy. A healthy church is a messy one.

Luke 15

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. ² This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

³ So Jesus told them this story: ⁴ "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he will joyfully

carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶ When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'