

## THE MARGINALIZED

JIM NICODEM | MARCH 5 & 6, 2022

LUKE 4:14-30

1. God's concern for \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Four kinds of people \_\_\_\_\_.

- The \_\_\_\_\_
- The \_\_\_\_\_
- The \_\_\_\_\_
- The \_\_\_\_\_

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ application of Jesus' teaching.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

- 1 . Since Jesus' concern for the "prisoner" is mentioned in this study, let's recollect our own possible run-ins with the law. :) Have you ever been ticketed for a traffic violation? How did you feel at the time?
- 2 . Jesus is a Savior for the marginalized. What does that word mean? Make as long a list as possible of types of people who might experience marginalization in our culture.
- 3 . Read Luke 4:14-17. Pretend that you're attending the synagogue in Nazareth when Jesus stands up to read from Isaiah. What might you be thinking?
- 4 . What do the following verses tell us about God's justice: Psalms 11:7; 36:6; 89:14; 101:1; 103:6? How would you define justice? (Look it up in a dictionary after writing your own definition.) Why do you think justice is such a big deal to God?
- 5 . Read Deuteronomy 24:19-21. Why are these harvesting instructions not only a matter of compassion but also a matter of justice? Read Matthew 25:31-46. On what basis will Jesus separate the sheep from the goats at the Final Judgment? What's your response to this teaching?
- 6 . Read Luke 4:18-21. What are the four kinds of marginalized people that are cited in Jesus' reading of Isaiah? Discuss common excuses for neglecting each of these groups?
- 7 . Go back through the list of four kinds of marginalized people and describe practical ways in which you could show concern for each group.
- 8 . Read Luke 4:22-30. Why did the hometown crowd turn against Jesus?
- 9 . Take one last look at the four kinds of marginalized people in vv.18, 19 and note how you personally might fit into each category--not literally, but metaphorically. What is the message for you in this realization?

**Prayer Prompt:** In, Out, Up. Reflect on an issue of injustice in your life (it could be a personal struggle or conflict, or larger community or world issue).

• In: Begin with your hands over your heart and spend some time in prayer for your own role in the issue - a softened heart, opened eyes, forgiveness to offer or request, or other ways to use your gifts. Also ask for forgiveness for the ways you seek to find justice in your own thoughts and actions.

• Out: Open your hands so your palms face outward. Pray for those involved in the injustice - for softened hearts, open eyes, forgiveness and repentance, blessing, truth, or whatever else comes to mind.

• Up: Turn your open palms so they face upward. Surrender the issue to God, asking for justice, mercy, grace, and truth. Petition God on behalf of those involved in the injustice, and then trust that you worship a God of justice.