

**Sermon Series:** Ready: Ministering to Those in Crisis

**To be used with:** Session Five: Ready When Homosexuality Devastates

**Sermon Title Possibilities:**

Dialoguing with the Homosexual

**Scripture:** Selected Scriptures

**Connection to Unit Theme:** *Ready: Ministering Life to Those in Crisis* is designed to help equip God's people to serve those who are experiencing different crisis. Session 5 is called "Ready When Homosexuality Devastates" and is based on 1 Corinthians 6, especially verses 9-11. The Point of the study is "Share the hope and new life all can have in Christ."

These theme based sermon outlines reinforce the themes of the small group studies but use different scripture passages. This way, you as the pastor can reinforce the topic without repeating the small group study.

### **Introduction:**

The cover of one pro-homosexual tract reads, "What Jesus Said about Homosexuality." The inside pages are blank.

Jesus said many things that the Bible does not record. He could have spoken of homosexuality, although He probably had no occasion to since it was a capital offense among the Jews of the first century. There are many other subjects that Jesus did not mention (incest, rape, bestiality), but that doesn't mean they are permissible.

The pro-homosexual activists are right, no recorded statements exist from Jesus about his view on homosexuality, nor is there a recorded conversation or encounter that Jesus had with a homosexual. But based on Jesus' encounters and statements to others that were engaged in a sinful and defeated lifestyle a scenario of what Jesus perhaps would have said, is possible. If Jesus were to come face to face with a homosexual, what would He say? What would He do? Here's what I think He would say and do.

#### **1. He would express His love.**

Like with Zaccheus, He might go to his home. Like with the Samaritan woman, He might sit in the shade of the well and talk. As He did with Matthew, Jesus might offer a personal invitation to share a meal. We don't know the exact words He would use, but of their sentiment, we have no doubt. We know that Jesus would express his compassion, for nothing can separate us from the love of God, this includes homosexuality. Jesus loves gay men and lesbian women. He made them, came for them, and died for them. And He would tell them so.

#### **2. He would speak the truth.**

#### **3.**

He would speak to them with compassion, but He would also speak to them with conviction. He would speak the truth. As He did with Zaccheus, the Samaritan woman, Matthew, and others, Jesus, always full of grace and truth, always told the truth. Here's the truth that Jesus demonstrated over and over again: "I love the sinner, but I hate the sin." All sin angers Jesus, whether it is the self-righteousness of the Pharisees or the self-indulgence of the moneychangers in the Temple. Homosexual activity angers Jesus. But who among us has not angered God? For we all are sinners.

4. He would seek to dissuade the homosexual from their homosexual behavior.

Is this hate, bigotry, or prejudice? Someone has said that this accusation is like calling the Surgeon General a smokophobe. When the health warnings were printed on cigarette packages, did that prove He hated smokers? Most smokers probably have family members who have tried to dissuade them from smoking. Is that because of hate? No! It's because of love. Jesus would say to the homosexual, "Your behavior is wrong. It's not healthy. It's not the plan I have for your life. I agenda is one of life." Then He would send them away with the words He said time and time again, "Go, and from now on do not sin any more" (John 8:11 HCSB).

5. He would state God's standard.

Jesus never approves sexual union outside of marriage. He would affirm that the only alternative to heterosexual marriage is singleness and sexual abstinence.

The secular world says: "Sex is essential to human fulfillment. To expect homosexual people to abstain from homosexual practice is to condemn them to frustration and to drive them to neurosis, despair and even suicide. It's outrageous to ask them to deny themselves what to them is a normal and natural mode of sexual expression."

Jesus would say that is not true. The teaching of God's Word is different. Sexual experience is not essential to human fulfillment. Sex is a good gift from God; it is not given to all, and it is not vital to completeness as a person.

Jesus was single yet perfect in his humanity. So it is possible to be single and fulfilled as a person at the same time without being engaged in sexual activity.

6. He would offer hope.

Jesus said: "Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, revilers, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom." Then He would invite us to read on. "Some of you were like this." Numbered among the members of the early church, were some former homosexuals. Ex-gays worshipped in the early church. God had delivered these people from that lifestyle; here is biblical evidence that change is possible. That is the heart of the gospel. "But you were washed . . ." Homosexuality is not a clean, wholesome lifestyle. It defiles us, but God is able and willing to wash away the stain. "You were sanctified . . ." To sanctify means to set apart for God's use. Despite the argument of gay theologians, a person is not walking close to the Lord when He or she accepts and pursues homosexuality. "You were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:9-11 HCSB). God does not approve of homosexuality, but He is willing to call us "righteous one" if we turn away from that behavior and follow him. A former theology professor used to say, "Justify means just what it says: 'Just-as-I-had-never-sinned.' That's how God looks at each one who trusts in Jesus."

Jesus would say that one is never without hope. That no matter how wicked one has become or how deeply one has fallen into the hole of sin, change is possible.

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