

## Life of Jesus

### Session 17: Insider Trading

Here in the West, Jesus is a familiar figure to Christians, dominating Sunday School lessons and sermons since our earliest memories. Yet, removed as we are by 2,000 years since he walked the earth, He remains somewhat mysterious. Why did He come? What did He teach? What was He really like?

Let's take an adventure to know more of this person about whom we assume so much familiarity. We will be exploring the Life of Jesus in 21 sessions. Let's experience the Life of Jesus together!

**Deep Hope:** May we, together, (re-) fall in Love with the Messiah as we understand, imitate, and experience the Life of Jesus.

### PART I: Review

1. The Holy Spirit is Jesus with (and within) us; everything God the Father wants to do *with* and *for* us happens *through* the Spirit.

- We must “stir up” the Spirit so that His influence pervades our lives and empowers our actions!

2. God is a waterfall of love and always moves toward the “poor.” Being a disciple of Jesus means we must tap into His resources so we can look past obstacles and truly know, value, and love others.

- (WHO did the Spirit put on your heart?!)

### PART II: Insider Trading

1. Jesus' parable of the Dishonest Manager gives us a wake-up call.
2. We are going to lose our \_\_\_\_\_; the future doesn't look bright!
3. But we have access to \_\_\_\_\_ for a limited time.
4. We are in a position to invest in \_\_\_\_\_ things by making God look amazingly \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What happens \_\_\_\_\_ depends upon what happens \_\_\_\_\_.
6. St. Francis says we can only take from earth what we have \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Big Idea: We get a limited time to \_\_\_\_\_ money to transform ourselves into \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ who will be comfortable in the coming world of love and give others a \_\_\_\_\_ peak into what it will look like.

### **Part III: Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1. If you feel comfortable, please share who the Spirit called you to remember last week, and what you did about it. If you forgot, take a moment to share what you might do this coming week.
2. Retell/review the strange parable about the dishonest manager as a group (Luke 16).
3. We often live as if our money/stuff were ours and nothing will ever change. How does Jesus' parable attack/expose the lies behind these ideas?
4. We often live as if money/our stuff has intrinsic value and as if our decisions about buying stuff for ourselves don't *really* matter. How does Jesus' parable attack/expose the lies behind these ideas?
5. Respond to St. Francis' quote: "You cannot all abandon your possessions, but at least you can change your attitude about them. All getting separates you from others; all giving unites to others."
6. What can you use this world's (ultimately worthless) money and possessions to create? Please share some creative ideas about what you currently do (or would like to do!) with your money/stuff that has eternal value.
7. Ask the Spirit to give you ideas about the kind of eternal art you could turn your money/possessions into. Share these ideas this week or next, if you'd like.

### **Part IV: Gospel Reading: Read John 15 and 16**

The night before He is to die, Jesus shares a wonderful parable about what life with Him will look like in the days to come—even after His resurrection. This life includes the Holy Spirit, who has become our life-sustaining connection to Jesus. Read Jesus' words in John 15 and 16 and spend some time meditating on the kind of connection Jesus wants to have with us. What does it mean to abide in Him?

**Prayer:** *"Father, we are so in love with the things of this world, the things we can see. While we acknowledge that all things are ultimately gifts from you and can turn our hearts toward you, we also admit they very often turn us away when we value them wrongly. Restore to us right thinking about our relationship with this present age and its treasures. Show us, by Your Spirit, how we can prepare ourselves and others for the Age to Come, when love for You and for our neighbor will be the only thing of value. Amen."*