

WOMEN OF THE WAY (W.O.W.)

Meeting Date: 1/7/21

Facilitator: Janet Butler

Lesson Plan: Who are you and who do you to be?

Matthew 27:15-26 ESV

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

Now Pilate faced yet another potentially explosive issue: what to do with Jesus? Another riot would have been costly. With two strikes against him, a third one might put Pilate out of work and on the streets for good. The situation with Jesus came to a boiling point during the Passover. It was tradition that the Roman Empire would allow one convicted felon to go free, and the Jews could choose who this would be. **Matthew 27:15–18 records this moment:**

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.

Pilate might have said to himself, “Here’s my opportunity to simply let Jesus go free. We’ll put forward the worst prisoner, a murderer, and we’ll put forward Jesus. Surely they won’t let the other guy go free.” But they did. The chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd to release Barabbas. Pilate was so surprised, he asked them again a second time, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas” (Matt. 27:21). And so just to clarify, Pilate asked them one last time, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” And he said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” (Matt. 27:22–23).

What's your New Year Resolve

1. Lose weight
2. Stop worrying
3. Go back to school
4. ????????

Mine is have less of what I don't want and more of what I do want.

Addition by Subtraction

We have too much.
Too much stuff.
Too much stress.
Too many obligations.

Yet we don't have enough.
Not enough time.
Not enough money.
Not enough energy.

Turns out we've stockpiled the "wrong" things,
and that's why we don't have enough of the "right" things.

The reality is we have too many things that increase our misery.
As a result, we lack composure, contentment, calmness.

Soaking in misery, we glimpse occasional moments of happiness.
We attempt to reprise those moments by acquiring new possessions.
We try to "fix" the misery by gathering objects that make us happy.

We act as if it's an inventory problem.
As if that Instagrammable couch or that area rug will "spark joy."
As if that indoor planter or that vertical bookcase will complete us.
As if that new shirt or those skinny jeans will make us anew.
As if a another man or women will make us happy

Subtract the "wrong" things;
add the "right" things.
That's the key, right?

Yes, that's the key to anxiety, restlessness, and dissatisfaction.

We cannot consume or achieve our way out of discontent.
Well, we can—but only for a fleeting moment.
It's not unlike a drug addict's high.
We can purchase pleasure,
but, in doing so, we also purchase future pain.
For after that spark of pleasure, misery always awaits.
There are no exceptions; they are two sides of the same coin.

We'll never have all the right things,
because there are no "right" things.
That's the lie we've been sold by advertisers
and by confused "influencers" who don't know any better.

Yes, some objects may enhance our lives,
but only after we subtract the attachment that gets in the way.

Peace cannot be packaged and placed on a conveyor belt.
It is buried beneath the hoard we've added to our lives.

The path to misery is cobbled with addition.
The path to peace is uncovered with subtraction.

Matthew 10:34-35, Matthew 10:34-39

Psalm 90:12 - Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom." ~

“Everyone Can’t be in your front row”

Life is a theater so invite your audiences carefully. Not everyone should have a FRONT ROW seat in our lives.

There are some people in your life that need to be loved from a distance.

It’s amazing what you can accomplish when you let go, or at least minimize your time with draining, negative, incompatible, not-going-anywhere relationships, friendships and family!

Everyone Can’t be in Your FRONT ROW.

Observe the relationships around you. Pay attention. Which ones lift and which ones lean? Which ones encourage and which ones discourage? Which ones are on a path of growth uphill and which ones are going downhill? When you leave certain people do you feel better or feel worse? Which ones always have drama or don’t really understand, know or appreciate you?

The more you seek quality, respect, growth, peace of mind, love and truth around you... the easier it will become for you to decide who gets to sit in the front row and who should be moved to the balcony of YOUR LIFE.

” If you cannot change the people around you, Change the people you are around.”

Remember that the people we hang with have an impact both our lives and our income. And so we must be careful to choose the people we hang out with, as well as the information with which we feed our minds. We should not share our dreams with negative people, nor feed our dreams with negative thoughts.

It is your choice and your life. It is up to you, who and what you let in..

LIFE IS A THEATRE.

INVITE YOUR AUDIENCE CAREFULLY

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