

THE BIG IDEA: WHO we have in common is more powerful than WHAT we don't.

The Take-Off

Can you imagine finding yourself at a party and not knowing who it was for?

Everyone's excited and having a great time and somehow you ended up in the crowd...

Then everyone's singing... and getting ready to say the name and you're like... what?? Who?? Huh??

Did you know that I've been at a party for me before and ended up alone?

Some of you extra extroverts can't imagine that happening, but it did.

I think that's happening right now in the Christian culture of our country - we're all about the party and not so much about who the party is for.

As we kick off this 7 week series called Party of Twelve, I want to take this morning and clearly remind all of us that Jesus is the life of the party

Without one King, there would never have been a party of twelve

I know our nation is divided and so many are calling for unity and it would be easy to see this as a series about unity, but this is a series about Jesus

Unity is a byproduct of people following Jesus and if we're not careful, we'll make unity or agreement or alignment with my preference or your preference the focus instead of simply following Jesus and letting unity develop.

There are all kinds of things we don't have in common, and what we'll find is that this party of twelve was no different, but Jesus stepped into that and changed the narrative from what they didn't have in common to who they did

That's what this series is about: **Who we have in common is more powerful than what we don't.**

Let's take a few minutes and examine [Luke 6:12-16 \(NIV\)](#) and see the difference Jesus makes.

I'm praying that the Holy Spirit gives you insight as we study, so please don't think that the 3 observations I've got are all that are here.

1. Jesus brings the extraordinary into the ordinary

- a. Let's start with those first 4 words: "One of those days..."
- b. We think of these as ordinary at best and terrible at worst, right?
- c. I bet you've used the phrase before - ever had "one of those days?"
- d. **But Jesus brings the extraordinary into the ordinary!**
- e. What felt like a routine day - a rut - was the day Jesus changed everything for 12 men, their families, and the world!
- f. Follow Jesus in the ordinary and you'll be in a position to experience the extraordinary.

2. Jesus brings together what the world pushes apart

- g. I don't need to convince any of us that the world's agenda is to divide us
- h. John 10:10 shows us whose agenda that actually is: the enemy
- i. He wants to divide and conquer, but Jesus has a different strategy
- j. **Jesus brings together what the world pushes apart**
- k. Jesus speaks to the divide with 2 words: "Follow me."
- l. These men had no business being in the same place - a hotheaded fisherman, a hated tax collector, a doubter, a political revolutionary, a future traitor
- m. Jesus overcame the divide between them by calling each of them to follow him and as they followed Jesus individually, they found themselves a part of a collective of Jesus followers
- n. Follow Jesus individually and you'll be in a position to experience unity

3. Jesus brings value to what the world throws away

- a. One more observation - these were not only ordinary men, but overlooked men - throwaways
- b. Maybe you're here and you feel invisible
- c. Can I assure you that God sees you and values you as one made in his image
- d. Eph. 2:10 / you were made on purpose for a purpose
- e. 1 Cor. 1:26-29 / we see this played out in the choosing of the Twelve

- f. Men ignored, underestimated and thrown away are the perfect instruments to be used by God
- g. You are, too.
- h. **Jesus brings value to what the world throws away**
- i. Follow Jesus expectantly and you'll be in a position to be valued immeasurably.

The Landing

I truly believe that the only way we can experience the kind of unity that overcomes the differences that we're experiencing in the world today is by having Jesus in common.

I want all of us to hear Jesus saying today what he said to that original Party of Twelve: "Follow me."

As we all follow Jesus together, we won't be able to keep the body apart.

Let's pray