



## **THOUGHTS FROM WEEKEND MESSAGE**

- Peppered throughout our reading this week, we see women trusted, needed, called, elevated and empowered by Jesus. In the weekend message, we heard about many of these stories from our reading including a deeper look at a few specific women who followed Jesus, offering support, protection and strategic planning to he and his disciples (pg 20). Mary was demon-possessed, Joanna was successful and influential, Susanna didn't have much written about her, and still others were not even mentioned by name. Yet they were valued and crucial to Jesus' ministry.
- Think through (and list out) all the stories you can remember from the reading and message regarding women in the book of Luke.
- What does Jesus' respect, trust and appreciation for the women of his era indicate about him?

-If you feel like you're crazy...Jesus saved a crazy person and delivered her - Mary Magdalene

-If you feel like you're too prominent...Jesus saved a person who lived in the penthouse of the palace - Joanna

-If you feel like you don't have a remarkable testimony...Jesus uses those who don't have unbelievable stories of rags to riches, zero to hero - Susanna

-If you feel like "one of the many"...a "no-name" who is faithful in obscurity...stay faithful and follow him to the end...he knows your name even if you stay pretty anonymous to others. You might feel nameless, faceless among the masses...but you are not "worthless".

- Which of these situations - crazy (or spiritually attacked), prominent (or successful), average (or anonymous) - do you find yourself? How might Jesus want to use you and your particular story, however significant or insignificant?



## QUESTIONS FROM WEEKDAY READING

### WEEKLY QUESTIONS:

1. *What's something you noticed for the first time?*
  2. *What questions did you have?*
  3. *Was there anything that bothered you?*
  4. *What did you learn about loving God?*
  5. *What did you learn about loving others?*
- What do you notice about the personality and calling of Jesus (even throughout the entire reading for the week) that's "**Different**" than the "normal" of the culture and religious leaders who surrounded him?
  - Jesus' Baptism | Jesus' Temptation | Jesus' Calling  
(First, re-read or skim pages 10-12 as a group)
    - How does the baptism, the temptation, and the calling/purpose of Jesus all fit linked together? Do you find significance in those three stories being joined into one long narrative?
    - What does Jesus use in each of His answers to Satan's tempting offers? How does Jesus model for us how we might need to combat temptation?
    - On page 12, Jesus reads from the book of Isaiah in the synagogue, identifying his calling and purpose. First, do you believe that this calling is one that every believer must assume, since Jesus did? Why or why not?
    - Second, how do you see the Church (universal and local) living out the ethics and calling of Jesus? Or, how is the Church missing the mark of following these principles?
  - If you had to describe Jesus as your best friend to another one of your friends, how would you describe him? Write out your description and share with your group.