

March 3 – Small Groups

Luke 7:1-17 “Only say the Word, and I will be Healed”

God’s law was intended for our flourishing, our freedom, not only individually but collectively as it was meant to undergird a society of justice and righteousness. But a question came to the fore: what happens when two of God’s laws come into conflict? This was a debate that raged during Jesus’ ministry as it asked the question, which one was heavy? Which one was light? Meaning to which command do you give the greatest weight? Jesus and the Pharisees often resolved this conflict differently leading to their conflict. We will first look at a clear example of this from a previous passage in Luke.

Read Luke 6: 6-11

1. In this story two of God’s laws are in conflict – Sabbath keeping and Love of Neighbour. From the story which command is given the greater weight for the Pharisees? Jesus?
2. How does seeing this dynamic at play in the ministry of Jesus bring greater understanding to Jesus’ approach to the law?

Read Luke 7:1-17; Numbers 19:11-13; 1 Kings 17:17-24

3. Here we have two stories where there is tension between two sets of God’s law – purity law and love of neighbour. How does Jesus resolving the conflict in the way that he does help us understand more of what it is to follow Jesus?
4. When we encounter the need of a neighbour we are unlikely to feel the tension between two sets of God’s law but there is tension nonetheless. There are indeed things that keep us from giving the greatest weight to love of neighbour in our lives. What are those things? How does Jesus invite us to resolve this tension?
5. Seeing who we are called to be in Jesus leads us to cry out – O Lord make me new – heal me – transform me! As we see in this story healing comes about through faith in Jesus. What do we learn here about the nature of faith?