

Luke's Gospel: The Great Reversal The Beginning of Jesus' Rejection

Passage: Luke 4:14-30

Life Group Guide | Sunday, January 30, 2022

Share a story about a time when you said something in a meeting, in a class, or around the holiday dinner table that landed like a lead balloon?

Read Luke 4:14-30. What stands out to you from this passage? What words, phrases, or images linger with you? What emotions come up?

Read the passage once more. Imagine yourself in the scene. Where are you in the crowd? What are you thinking & feeling? What are you doing &/or saying?

Many in the first century saw Rome as the enemy. Jesus was not the Messiah they were expecting. Instead, Jesus revealed that Rome was not the enemy—nor was the Gentile, nor the Samaritan. *Sin was the enemy of every heart, every relationship and every nation.* Sin divides, creates hierarchies of worth, and “others” people to places of abuse and oppression.

Othering involves focusing on a difference and using that difference to destroy our sense of connectedness. *Othering* sets the stage for discrimination and persecution by reducing empathy and preventing our ability to know and love one another.

What does *othering* look like, sound like, and feel like for you?

What do you lament on the subject of *othering*?

How have you been impacted by *othering*? In what ways do you *other* those you encounter?

Read 1 John 4:10-19. How does fear compromise your ability to love? What from this passage gives you hope?

Pray together. Ask the Holy Spirit to begin to illuminate and heal the ways that fear impacts your ability to love. Begin by reading **Luke 4:18-19.**