

He Gets Us™

Judged By Religious People

NOTE: THIS MESSAGE AND FOLLOWING SMALL GROUPS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY COVERED IN PRAYER. Helping people through church hurt can be complex and difficult. If you have questions or need more help before or after your small group, please reach out to your Small Groups Coach, or the Small Groups Staff. We do have Congregational Care to help with specifics or the Licensed Professional Counsellors at the church (find out more here hcbc.com/care).

Scriptures: Matthew 9:9-13, 32-34; 12:1-8

Sermon Points: see below

Group Opener: During the message Tim shared a heartfelt apology to all those who have felt hurt by the church. How did that effect you?

Discussion Questions:

1. The message addressed a couple of the ways Jesus experienced being judged by religious people. Review the points & passages...
 - Matthew 9:9-13 - Hanging with the “wrong” people.
 - Matthew 12:1-8 - Not keeping the “rules”
 - Matthew 9:32-34 - Doing good things by “evil” means

Which one of these examples have you felt/experienced?

2. Do you believe that God can redeem “church hurts” and somehow bring something good from the evil?
3. Why is it important to be specific about who hurt you rather than generalize it to the whole Church?
4. Would you also say that you have been hurt by religious people? Please share if you feel comfortable.

NOTE: For all those who share at this point, please respond with care and prayer. They may not “say it all right”, this could be a moment that is very raw & real. Please follow up during the week so that people feel heard and cared for.

5. Jesus kept telling his religious critics to learn the meaning of Hosea 6:6, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.” How does a focus on mercy help us love people who are struggling with sin and brokenness? Spend some time praying for people in your life who need to feel God’s mercy through you.