



Session 6: Jesus Loved to Party

October 14, 2019 • Rev. Doug Gray
First Church of Squantum

Bible Study Based on
Leonard Sweet's *The Bad Habits of Jesus: Showing Us
How to Live Right in a World Gone Wrong*

I. Introductions and Prayer

- A. Leonard Sweet writes: “If they’d had paparazzi back in the first century, Jesus would have been in a lot of their pictures. He would have gotten past the velvet rope at any club in town. He was in high demand as a guest. Why? Because Jesus was the life of every party. So much so that less-than-kosher people often hosted VIP events for him, causing the religious establishment to label him a party animal.” (p. 81)

II. God Made Us for Joy and Delight

- A. Read Psalm 16. What’s the general tone or mood of this psalm?
- B. Who are the two kinds of people on David’s mind? (See vss. 3–4) What comes to each of those groups?
- C. David turns to naming his blessings. What ones does he start with? What are the others?
- D. When David thinks about his blessings, what does it lead him to do?
- E. This Psalm was thought by early Christians to speak prophetically about Jesus. What parts of this psalm resonate with Jesus?

III. Jesus Loved to Party

- A. Read Matthew 9:9–13. What are some things you notice? Are you surprised by Jesus’ response to the disciples in the second section?
- B. What do you think the mood at dinner was that night? Why?
- C. Why are the religious leaders concerned about who Jesus is eating with?
- D. Jesus responds by quoting from Hosea 6:6. Read Hosea 6:1–6. What does this passage say about what God was hoping for from God’s people?
- E. Loving God is serious...or is it? What role does delight play in your thinking about God?
- F. Why do you think some people aren’t sure whether they can be truly happy about knowing God?
- G. Since God throws a party for those who “come home,” should we always rejoice, especially if the person shows a pattern of “back-sliding”?mail

IV. Conclusions: Jesus Offends Us Too!

“The church above all should be a place of festivities and joy. People should look at the church and think, *What joyful people!* If more of the church shared Jesus’ bad habit of loving to party, it would be the place everyone would want to be.” (p. 87)