



Session 8: Jesus Liked Bad People

October 28, 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: "Jesus had the bad habit of liking people who were not like others and whom others did not like... Jesus not only liked them, he went out of his way to find them, just like he went out from his heavenly home to find us-to seek, to save, and to love us. *All of us.*" (p. 103)

II. The Ones God Has an Eye on and Works Through

- A. Read Numbers 11:4–17, 24–30. Does God just work through those who came to the meeting? What does this say about how God chooses to work?
- B. Read Hosea 14. Who are the ones God chooses to look after? How do they find the way that's open to them?
- C. Read Jeremiah 3:11–18. What is it that makes Israel faithless? How does God feel and think about them? Is there a way home for them?
- D. Many times in scripture, God declares God's concern for those who are immigrants, fatherless or widowed. In the Old and New Testaments, these were the people who did not have rights in society, a legal voice in the courts, or someone looking after them at home. What are those groups now?

III. Jesus Cares for the Demon-Possessed

- A. Read Luke 8:26–39. What do you notice? What are your questions? Are there words or phrases that resonate for you?
- B. Where does Jesus find this demon-possessed person? Where does he normally live? How do the townspeople feel about him?
- C. How does Jesus change his life? With a word? A touch?
- D. Why do you think Jesus "negotiates" with the demons?
- E. How do the townsfolk find the man? What's their reaction?
- F. Normally, Jesus tells people not to tell other people about Him. What are Jesus' words to the man who has been healed? Why do you think Jesus allows that this is different?

IV. Conclusions — Jesus specializes in making beauty from the trash of the world

"An aged Appalachian woman who lived all her life in the high hills and hollers of West Virginia taught her city grand-daughter this formula for a good life:

*Wash what is dirty.
Water what is dry.
Heal what is wounded.
Warm what is cold.
Guide what goes off the road.
Love people who are least lovable,*

because they need love the most.” Isn’t that what Jesus came to do? (p. 108)