

JESUS WAS A "PEOPLE" PERSON

John 1:1-14

Introduction: Looking at what Jesus did most of the time one must conclude that Jesus was surrounded by people of all kinds. There were those of questionable reputation, those whom others did not like, those who seemed to have nothing as well as those who were well known, rich and religious. Jesus spent His time with people, listened to them, responded to their needs and hurts. He took every opportunity to change a life. Some responded to Him in faith and were spiritually changed while some responded in dislike, even in acts of violence. Looking at Jesus' life down here, it is very clear that Jesus was a "people" person.

I. JESUS LOVED CROWDS

1. Jesus lived in a crowded world. A crowded place and crowds of people were around Jesus whether in the cities or in the country, people crowded around Him.
 - In the crowds, Jesus saw people who were hurting in body and in spirit.
 - In the crowds, Jesus saw people who were helpless, cast down physically and emotionally.
 - In the crowds, Jesus saw people who were confused and had no shepherd to guide them.
 - In the crowds, Jesus saw people that nobody cared about.

2. Jesus always saw the individual in the crowd. Always a face would stand out or a single voice would be heard.
 - Blind Bartimaeus in a crowd cried out and Jesus stopped where He was and took time out to minister to this single person.
 - Walking along the seashore with a crowd, Jesus saw a single face and said, "*Matthew come and follow me...*"
 - Passing through a crowded pool at Bethesda where people came in hope of being healed by the pool when an angel stirred the waters, Jesus stopped, went up to a single person in that crowd and healed that one particular person.
 - When Jesus saw a crowd, He always saw ever single face.

3. Jesus always saw more than just the faces of the crowd. He also saw what each one needed.
 - Four friends brought a sick friend to Jesus, the man went away healed and forgiven.
 - A centurion came to Jesus concerned over a servant's sickness and Jesus commended him on his faith and then healed the servant.
 - A wild man came screaming to Jesus and Jesus asked him what his name was, wanting to hear more from the man, and eventually healed him of demon possession.
 - Jesus looked through a short, unpopular tax collector and saw a deep desire to be accepted.
 - Jesus saw beneath the reluctance of a Samaritan woman to see her adulterous life and her need for a new, changed life.
 - Jesus knew there is always more to a person than what can be seen on a face in a crowd.

4. Jesus always saw with Compassion.

- Compassion is much more than feeling pity or sympathy.
- Sympathy sees and says, "I'm sorry."
- Compassion feels, and whispers, "I want to help."
- Jesus' compassion was genuine and He could not possibly reject or neglect those who hurt and He was compelled to do something.
- Jesus' compassion moved Him to act, to speak a word of comfort and care, to extend a hand to help and to ultimately give His life.

II. JESUS AND INDIVIDUALS

1. Jesus spent more time and became more involved when dealing with individuals.
 - Jesus stopped where He was, walked over to where Bartimaeus was and called him over and spent time with him.
 - Jesus always had the time to stop and talk to individuals whether publicans, lonely widows, despised prostitutes, outcasts of society, unimportant people, unfortunate and lost children of God the Father. It made no difference who they were.

2. Jesus had a life-changing word for everyone He met.
 - Nicodemus at a night meeting.
 - The crowds on the mountainsides.
 - Blind Bartimaeus.
 - Many whose lives were changed by a conversation with Jesus went on to tell their story of Jesus to others who would listen to them.
 - The shepherds who saw Jesus as a baby went on to tell what they had seen.
 - Andrew ran to tell his brother Simon about Jesus.
 - The Samaritan woman ran back to the village to tell the people there about Jesus.
 - Matthew threw a big party for all his influential friends to meet Jesus.
 - The wild man of Gadarenes went throughout the cities telling about Jesus.
 - Countless people have come to know Jesus and have gone on to tell others about Jesus.
 - It is our turn now, we must go and tell others about Jesus.

3. Jesus gave Himself.
 - Jesus personally invested Himself in people.
 - Jesus asked Bartimaeus, "***What can I do for you?***"
 - Jesus wanted to meet people. Jesus wanted to help people. Jesus wanted to give Himself to helping others. Jesus finally gave all He had for others and in doing so, made it possible for all who want to, to have eternal life.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus spent His life helping others physically and spiritually.
2. We need to listen to people, love the unlovely, the unloveable, to care for each other.
3. We need to do as Jesus did and become "people" people and bring them to God.