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Week 2: Reputation

Introduction:

Incarnation → **REPUTATION** → Conversation → Confrontation → Transformation

"At the end of the day, people won't remember what you said or did, but how you made them feel." (Maya Angelou)

John 13:34

A new command I give to you, that you love one another. Even as I have loved you, so you must also love one another.

Street Cred: Four Reasons Jesus had a Great Reputation

1. Jesus was fully _____ See Luke 3:23
2. Jesus worked a _____
3. Jesus picked _____ in public
Do we just pick fights, or do we pick the *right* fights?
4. Jesus was a friend of _____

To Be a Friend of Sinners, we must...

- _____ sin
- Get a _____ for sin
- Treat everyone as _____

THE BIG IDEA:

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches (Proverbs 22:1). Reputation is important, and the reputation of Christians in our culture has taken a beating. Are you known as a true friend of sinners? If someone were to use that label as an insult toward you, would you instead wear it as a badge of honor like Jesus did?

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. The label "friend of sinners" is something we cherish about Jesus, but it was not meant to be a compliment when it was originally spoken! How much does the opinions or judgment of others influence the social circles you choose to involve yourself in? Explain...

Ponderings:

2. How was Jesus able to be the holiest person who ever lived, and simultaneously the least judgmental? What do you think would change about the reputation of Christians if we were known for living that same way? Share your thoughts...
3. John 13:34 is Jesus' "new command" – to love one another as He has loved us – and He went on to say that by our love for one another, everyone would know we are His disciples. How significantly does division among Christians impact our reputation in the culture at large? What are the differences between "differences" and "division?" Discuss...
4. The fact that Jesus lived as fully human, worked a regular job, picked the right fights and was known as a friend of sinners all worked together to lift his reputation among the common people. Of those four things, which do you believe is the most glaring weakness in the American Church and why?
5. In the weekend message, it was noted that "hurt people hurt people." How does understanding the root of our struggles (rather than just outward behavior) allow us to "overlook sin" for long enough to build a trusting relationship? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. This week, will you prayerfully consider whether you have hurt someone by being judgmental or condemning? If you discover that the answer is yes, will you commit to apologizing to that person, and asking for their forgiveness?

On the other hand, is there someone in your life who has hurt you through being judgmental or condemning of you? Will you choose to forgive that person this week and pray for them instead?