

Study Guide  
Series: “The Gospel of the Nobodies”  
“Having Eyes to See”

**Monday - Luke 4:14-44**

In Nazareth, Jesus is met with rejection and anger. In Capernaum, the townspeople wanted him to stay there and be their local healer. But Jesus steadfastly followed a course that he and God chose. He did not allow either human popularity or rejection to govern his actions. What seems to have changed people’s reaction from verse 22, where they were “impressed by the gracious words flowing from his lips,” to verse 28, where they were filled with murderous anger? In what ways did “This is Joseph’s son, isn’t it?” express doubt about Jesus’ messianic claim? In what ways did Jesus’ mission address both physical and spiritual bondage, poverty and blindness? Jesus was a supreme example of servant leadership, yet Luke said he also practiced good self-care (or, perhaps more accurately, soul care). In verse 42 today, and again in Luke 5:16 tomorrow, Luke said Jesus left the crowds to pray in solitary places. Solitude—just you and God—is hard for most of us. How could you create fifteen minutes of solitude each day for this? How might you occasionally find longer periods of solitude? Consider praying the labyrinth at the church.

**Tuesday- Luke 5:1-32**

In Jesus’ day, illness was not just physical—many people thought it was a sign of God’s curse. Jesus’ healing acts bore powerful witness to God’s forgiveness and love, as well as God’s power. The book *Serving from the Heart* defines the gift of healing as “the divine ability to bring wholeness—physical, emotional or spiritual—to others.” What signs can you find in these stories that Jesus healed in all of these ways? In which of these ways do you most need healing right now? How can you open your life to Jesus’ healing power? In verses 17-21 and 30, a shadow fell over the joy Jesus’ healing, liberating power brought. Israel’s religious leaders, who should have led the people in recognizing and welcoming Jesus, were shadowing him, not to learn, but with a critical, fault-finding spirit. In what ways did Jesus’ ministry pose a threat to those leaders? In what ways can you keep yourself from feeling threatened by anyone whose service to God attracts attention or shows spiritual power?

**Wednesday - Luke 5:33-6:16**

Jesus was challenging the *status quo*, and he used a parable to do so. Goatskins often held wine and other fluids in Palestine, but new wine would burst a rigid old skin. Through Jesus, God was establishing new ways of working in the world that would burst old cultural norms. Old ways of doing things aren’t necessarily bad, but they aren’t necessarily good, either. With the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God was establishing new ways of working in the world—new wine that required new wineskins. Think back on your own spiritual journey: how has God transformed you from old ways of living to new ways? Which wine skin do you identify with? There were 12 tribes of Israel. So when Jesus chose 12 as his followers the symbolism was clear—he was creating a new Israel. Luke said Jesus spent an entire night in prayer before finalizing the choice. Do you make prayer as important when you face a significant decision as Jesus did?

**Thursday - Luke 6:17-6:49**

Jesus spoke here about “status inversion.” Like Mary’s song in Luke 1:46-55, this sermon offered God’s favor and comfort to people we typically see as unfortunate, while warning those we see as particularly elevated. For us, in a rich community in the richest country on earth, Jesus’ words can be disturbing. Which parts of his sermon most challenge our culture’s wisdom on how to “succeed”? Which of Jesus’ promises in this sermon mean the most to you? From Francis of Assisi to his namesake Pope Francis, from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Mother Teresa, many Christ followers have stood with the poor and oppressed. In *The Message*, Luke 6:46 says, “Why are you ... always saying ‘Yes, sir,’ and ‘That’s right, sir,’ but never doing a thing I tell you? These ... are words to build a life on.” How are you building your life on Jesus’ values, as so many of his followers through the centuries have done?

### **Friday - Luke 7:1-35**

A Roman commander trusted Jesus implicitly, and Jesus healed his valued servant. We tend to experience Jesus first in terms of what we know best. How did the Roman centurion draw on his military command and control knowledge to express his trust in Jesus’ power? How did Jesus’ response to that foreign military officer point ahead to a church that welcomed Gentiles and Jews as equals before God? In prison, John the Baptist began to wonder, when was Jesus going to “clear his threshing floor”, “burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire”? Was he “the one,” as John had preached? He sent the question to Jesus. How did Jesus’ words in verses 22-23 respond, in a gentle, Bible-based way to John’s troubled question? Then he added a forceful, loyal defense of John’s ministry. How can Jesus’ gracious way of dealing with John’s question give you confidence in going to him when you have questions or struggles?

### **Saturday - Luke 7:36-8:21**

A religious leader invited Jesus to eat at his house, but he seems to have treated Jesus quite rudely. A “woman from the city, a sinner” found Jesus there, and poured out her love in tears and perfume. Jesus told a story that taught that he sowed the seed of God’s love and grace everywhere. Human eyes can’t always tell where it will find fertile ground in which to grow, and where it will land on rocky ground that causes it to wither away. When Jesus explained the parable of the farmer sowing seed, he listed four kinds of human “soil” who hear the good news. Which soil type do you think best described Simon the Pharisee? Which most characterized the “woman from the city, a sinner” who anointed Jesus’ feet? Which of the four soil types has best described your spiritual journey so far? What spiritual practices can help you continue growing your capacity to be “good soil” in the months ahead?