

Kasey said that when Jesus became a place sharer He entered fully into the other's humanity to walk with them through the mess towards the new humanity.

-There's a lot wrapped up in that idea, what do you think it means?

One of the examples of Jesus entering into someone else's humanity that we shared was the calling of Matthew as a disciple. Take a look at Matthew 9:9-13.

- Why does Matthew make a point of the fact that Jesus had dinner at his house?
- What does it mean, or imply, when you have dinner with someone in their home?
- When the Pharisees asked why Jesus would eat with tax collector's and sinners (in front of Matthew the tax collector), what were they saying about Matthew?
- In that time, to eat with someone implied that you agreed with them and their way of living and believing. What do you think people assumed about Jesus in this situation?
- Be brutally honest with yourself, what would you likely have assumed about Jesus in this situation?
- Who are the 'sinners and tax collector's' of our day?

Take a look at Luke 19:1-10

- Why do the people in the crowd call Zaccheus a sinner?
- What does this imply about how they see themselves in comparison to him?
- The crowd defined Zaccheus by his role as a tax collector, how did Jesus define him?
- Can you think of anyone that you've defined by what they do?
- What are other ways that we (may wrongly) define people?
- What does 2 Corinthians 5:16 mean?
- Why does Jesus say that He MUST (He's emphatic in the greek) stay at Zaccheus' house?
- Why did Jesus do it this way instead of preaching a sermon or advising Zaccheus on what to do to gain a better reputation?
- How do you think Zaccheus felt when he heard the crowd call him a 'sinner' and wonder aloud why Jesus would associate with him?
- How do you think Jesus felt?

Kasey shared a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

"Because Jesus took the guilt of all human beings upon himself, everyone who acts responsibly becomes guilty. Those who, in acting responsibly seek to avoid becoming guilty, divorce themselves from the ultimate reality of history, that is, from the redeeming mystery of the sinless bearing of guilt by Jesus Christ, and have

no part in the divine justification that attends this event. They place their personal innocence above their responsibility for other human beings and are blind to the fact that precisely in doing so they become even more egregiously guilty.”

- How would you convey these ideas in your own words?
- How does Jesus practice this, what are some examples?
- We discussed the idea of being willing to become guilty by association, what does this mean to you?
- Can you recall a time that you felt guilt by association?
- Can you recall a time that you've assigned someone else guilt by association?
- How does trying to protect our own innocence ultimately make us even more egregiously guilty?
- Does looking again at Matthew 22:34-40 change your last answer at all? How?

Kasey shared briefly that it's not just about sharing in the negative stuff, but that in becoming a place sharer we are practicing Romans 12:15 by rejoicing with those who rejoice and mourning with those who mourn.

- Why do you think the book and many examples in Scripture seem to highlight the negative side of journeying together or place sharing?
- Can you think of examples in Scripture of Jesus sharing in the rejoicing, joy, or celebration of others?
- Do you have others in your life that you believe do (or would) celebrate successes with you?
- Do you have others in your life that you believe do (or would) mourn with you?
- What about suffer with you?
- How would you say someone could accurately celebrate with you?
- How about mourn or suffer with you?
- Are you that person for anyone else?

One of the dangers of a study like this is that we get really excited that finally everyone else is going to 'get it' and they are going to start pursuing a deep, authentic relationship with me and truly journeying alongside me. This is to miss the point entirely. I have to become a place sharer for others and enter fully into their humanity to walk with them through the mess towards the new humanity just as Jesus has done for me. Hopefully it will be reciprocated, but even if it's not...it doesn't change what I'm supposed to do. So it's time to start getting practical.

-Ask God to begin revealing to you the relationships (that maybe already exist) that you need to go deeper and enter fully into the others humanity to walk with them through the mess towards the new humanity.