

# **JOINING JESUS ON HIS MISSION -#4**

And

## **The Implications for Our Lutheran Church—Anytown, Iowa**

Based on the book JOINING JESUS ON HIS MISSION, by Greg Finke.

### **Foundation Work:** Matthew 7:7-12

1. What do you notice about the magnitude of the comparisons that Jesus makes in verses 9-11? Does that challenge our thinking and praying?
2. What is the role of persistence in praying? For what have you ever persisted in prayer? Who may have been persisting in prayer for you? How does that make you feel?
3. How does verse 12 fit into this passage?

### **Chapter 6-8 Review and Discussion**

1. Any general reflections before we start?
2. The author couples his idea of 'enjoying people' with 'agenda-less friendship.' What agenda friendships have been foisted upon you, or have you used with others? How did they feel? Do we expect agenda-less friendships from people?
3. On page 69 at the bottom, we are told that “wherever hope and redemption are needed, you can be sure of this: Jesus is present and working nearby. In other words, the kingdom of God is near.” Seen any evidence of this?
4. On page 73, the last full paragraph, Rev. Finke describes the kingdom of God as a present and redemptive reality “that we can \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It is \_\_\_\_\_ us. It is \_\_\_\_\_ us. It is \_\_\_\_\_ with us.” What do you take away from this?

5. Pastor Finke adds to our thinking of the kingdom in the question above by describing it on page 78 (1<sup>st</sup> paragraph) as “on the loose” in our very midst. How is this so here at our congregations?
  
6. On pages 80-81, the author talks about repentance as much bigger than “stop doing naughty things” and instead expands it as a changing of the mind and life direction. How might we need to use this expanded definition in thinking of our role as His church in this place?
  
7. How comforting to you are the first two paragraphs on page 82? Does it make our call to join Jesus harder or easier?

## **HOMEWORK FOR NEXT WEEK CHAPTERS 9-11**