

Joining Jesus, Session 5, Chapter 7

- 1) Pastor Finke shared a story of eating gulf shrimp and sharing Jesus' love. (pages 69-70) But he adds a disclaimer: I hadn't really done anything. It was Jesus who worked out the precise timing of Jim and me standing together at an impromptu party eating really good shrimp.

- 2) Share an example of a time when God opened up a door for you to share His love in a way which may have seemed simple, but which had an impact in someone's life.

- 3) Read the summary points from Pastor Finke on page 71 of book.

"I couldn't manufacture this opportunity or control the result."

"All I could do was ... seek, recognize and respond to what Jesus was already doing in Jim's life."

"Jesus took care of all the complicated stuff."

In good Lutheran terms, What does this mean?

How does this apply to you?4

- 4) Read these verses and discuss.

+ Ephesians 2:10

+Philippians 2:13

+John 5:17 & John 13:7

Joining Jesus, Session 5, Chapter 8 – “The Kingdom of God”

1) What do you think of when you hear “kingdom of God”?

Jesus used the terms *kingdom*, *kingdom of God* and *kingdom of heaven* over 100 times in the Gospels (page 75).

2) How do these passages explain it?

Mark 4:26-27 -- takes place quietly

Mark 4:20 – happens in the hearts of people

Matthew 13:31-32 – occurs in little ways people may underestimate

Matthew 13:33 – has a huge impact

Matthew 6:33 – Jesus wants it to be our first and foremost focus.

3) “Wherever God is present and active, His kingdom is present and active” (page 75). Where is the kingdom of God?

When is the kingdom? See Mark 1:15.

“What was perhaps most striking about Jesus’ announcement of God’s kingdom was that its coming was no longer fearsome to sinners (like it was on Mt. Sinai) but “good news” to sinners” (page 77).

4) Explain these quotes in your own words.

From the day of Adam, ruin had been spreading through the created world.... (page 78) But now through Jesus, restoration is spreading!

“As we walk out the front door and into the new day, we can have two simple questions on our mind: “Jesus, what are you up to today?” And then, “How would you have me join you?”

