

SERIES: I'm Him

MESSAGE TITLE: Showstopper

MESSAGE OVERVIEW: Jesus did some unbelievable things. He spoke words that were astonishing, beautiful, and heart-wrenching all at once. We can get hung up on those things, much like most people did in the days Jesus walked the earth. But if we stop there, we miss the whole purpose of Jesus; we miss who He is.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 4:43-54, Luke 15

BREAKING IT DOWN:

1. The paradox in John 4:43-45 tells us that, though Jesus was welcomed, the people were still missing it. Despite the miracles and incredible teaching, they continually questioned who he was (which is precisely why Jesus kept coming back). They weren't after relationship with their savior. They were looking for convenience and comfort.
2. What stands out to you in v46-54? The nobleman walked 20 miles to reach Jesus. He was willing to go to any lengths in his desperation. Sound familiar? When in need, hurting, or hopeless, we chase Jesus down. But what about the good times? Do we believe Jesus is the same God *between* our moments of despair?
3. Jesus response in verse 48 is a bump in the man's plan. Why does he address the crowd instead of answering him? It's a heart test. Not to be cruel, or because he doesn't know already. Jesus wants to test and expose our faith. Are we looking for a show? A bandaid? Or do we want Him for who He is?
4. The man simply takes Jesus word and heads home. Along the way, servants from his household meet him with good news about his son. Does God expect us to make difficult journeys alone? Or does he have plans to provide for our needs along the way?

WAYS TO LIVE THE MESSAGE THIS WEEK:

1. Don't use Jesus - There is so much goodness and blessing that comes from following Him, but it shouldn't be the determining factor in why we believe Him.
2. What are the "bumps" in your plan? What obstacles or unexpected turns is God using to reveal your faith?
3. God will absolutely meet us in our need, providing strength and reassurance along the way. But is His word enough for you?

