

**Who is in and who is on the outs!**

**Who is OUT for the Pharisees : those who keep the law**

- 1. All sinners: prostitutes, tax collectors, the lepers**
- 2. And those who associate with prostitutes and tax collectors and lepers**
- 3. therefore, Jesus is one who is out!**

**The woman at the banquet has touched you; she is a sinner**

**Who is IN for the Pharisees: Those who keep the law. Those who are ritually clean. Those who have not sinned.**

**Who is IN for Jesus: those who seek repentance and change their lives**

- He followed John the Baptist with the repentance at the Jordan: The kingdom of God is at hand.”**
- Jesus believed that the Kingdom of God HAD ALREADY broken through. People’s sins were forgiven; lepers were cured; repentant tax collectors and prostitutes were welcome; NO ONE was excluded to God’s forgiveness.**
- Jesus is the One who came to bring the “good news of the kingdom of God.” In this kingdom sinners touch God, receive forgiveness, and are granted peace. In this kingdom it is not tension and judgment does not triumph, but love conquers all.**

- **Therefore this woman who was known as a public sinner**
  - **Who washed Jesus feet with the tears of repentance**
  - **Wiped them with her hair**
  - **And poured ointment of love upon his feet in a public display of love**

**This woman who sought the mercy of the Lord and reached out and touched him was forgiven.**

**Who was “out” for Jesus:**

- 1. people who think we are hopelessly sinful.**
- 2. people who judge others as unworthy of God’s forgiveness**
  - a. those who refused to be touched by Jesus.**
  - b. those who refused to be touched by the good news of healing which Jesus brought.**

**This is not just true in Jesus’ time; it is our own lived experience.**

**We judge people all the time: even in church:**

- **Look at how that woman is dressed. Umm Umm**
- **Those children are out of control**
- **Did you see that man who didn’t even take off his hat!**
- **Did you read about what happened to her in the newspaper this week?**
- **I heard that couple is getting divorced.**
- **That woman is having a child and she is not married.**

**Sometimes we can judge others which keeps us from experiencing the love of God just as it did for the Pharisees.**

**(Story of family in parking lot this past week)**

**Being willing to touch and be touched.**

**How long do we profess our belief in Jesus yet we just go along judging others, and refuse to reach out and receive all he has to offer us?**

**End of Gospel story:**

**Who are the true followers of Jesus? In today's gospel we hear a list of them.**

- The twelve: Jesus had spoken to their hearts and they had responded**
- Women: rich and influential; Mary Magdelene, people who had been possessed with demons; saved sinners**
- All of them open to the compassion of Jesus.**

**How much have we been willing to touch and be touched by him?**

**Peace be with you:**

- **a time to celebrate the good news that we have been loved by God;**
- **that his peace invades our very bones;**
- **that we are in communion with the living God;**
- **that we form a community which gives witness to and extends Christ's compassion to our world.**

**Whenever we see a wayward brother or sister this week, let our words be, "There but for the grace of God go I." Let us not judge but let the love of Jesus pour out of our repentant loving hearts.**

**May Jesus' words to the Pharisee in today's gospel be his words to us today said, "Who has loved more? May we reply, "The one who has been forgiven more." Then Jesus instructs us, "Then Go Go Go and do the same.**