

Messy Ministry

The Code, Week Two

If you're a Christian, you probably see the church as one of three kinds of ships...

A CRUISE SHIP

On a cruise ship, you don't serve. You get served - unless you work on the ship and then you're worn out most of the time.

Cruise ships have everything everyone could enjoy, but nothing meaningful at all.

A BATTLESHIP

On a battleship, you're prepared for a fight. It's us vs. them. And that's where we are in our culture a lot right now.

A HOSPITAL SHIP

Remember when Covid-19 was really spreading throughout New York City and the U. S. Navy sent a hospital ship to the harbor?

THAT's the church! We're here to offer rescue and healing and redemption!

Our second core value at Grace Hills...

MESSY MINISTRY

We are here for the broken. We do what we do to reach people who are far from God. We get our hands messy in ministry.

Jesus came for the broken...

Luke 5:27-32 NIV

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**"

Luke 19:1-10 NIV

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**"

Even when Jesus visited the home of a Pharisee, in Luke 7:36-50, he spent his time allowing a "sinful woman" to worship him and offered her forgiveness for all of her sins.

We INVITE people to come WITH their messes.

What is the qualification to be able to come and see what Jesus is all about?

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We will NOT create a church for the already churched. We WILL create a home for the spiritually homeless and expect sinners of every flavor to show up.

We INCLUDE people in the LIFE of the body.

Can I attend if I'm _____? YES!

And you can join a small group.

And you can volunteer on a team.

And you can be involved in the mission of Jesus in this community.

Note: We do make exceptions when we feel that someone's past or present disqualifies them from being around people vulnerable to certain crimes.

We INVOLVE people in the mission of Jesus.

God aggressively and delightfully values and uses thugs and misfits to build His glorious kingdom: abrasive, thickheaded people like Peter, hotheaded racists like James and John, violent brawlers and extortionists like Simon and Matthew, and mentally deranged bag ladies like Mary Magdalene. He doesn't give them a bowl of soup and shuffle them out of the church. He gives them responsibility—the hallmark of genuine value—and trusts in the God who uses the weak to shame the strong.

- Preston Sprinkle, Charis

We INVEST time and resources to address the messes.

We get our hands messy.