



Chapter 3

Reflections to Journal and Share

- What did you learn about Jesus in this passage? Not exactly “gentle Jesus meek and mild” here! Rather, a courageous confronter who will not back down. What did you learn about the human condition?
- Who are today’s “righteous?” Those who, like those first-century citizens of Nazareth, are convinced they have it right - all figured out - but have missed God’s heart of compassion and mercy for those not like them.
- Would you agree or disagree with the observation that it often seems as if our deepest wounds (and attempted stonings!) come not from the world, but from within our church, Para-church, and family cultures?
- Given Jesus’ expressed purpose of “setting the prisoners free,” have you ever thought of the Kingdom of God as a massive jailbreak and yourself as an ex-con set free from “death row?”
- Notice how the messianic zealots in Nazareth became such prisoners of their paradigms and expectations that they 1) missed Messiah when He came to them, 2) couldn’t hear God’s voice when He spoke to them, 3) had to ignore (or perhaps even deny) what their own Scriptures taught about God’s mercy to Gentiles. Ring any bells? Have you seen any of these stone-ear patterns in your religious journey?
- God’s mercy always produces more mercy. How are you, your church, your ministry and your family measuring up to Jesus’ three-part plumb line for His Kingdom of God?
- What thought(s) challenged you in this encounter? What is God’s Spirit whispering to you? What action is He prompting you to take?