



The People Who Rescue Us

Question: Does Jesus love and help ordinary people?

Sunday School Answer: Absolutely.

Heart Answer: I hope so but He is probably pretty tentative about me.

The Tension: What if Jesus does not really help ordinary people? What if the Sunday School answer is wrong? What if my gut feel about my ordinariness and my poor track record and my sinful interior is right? What if I am simply disqualified from salvation or from a good relationship with God by my past?

Take a look at an ordinary guy—David the shepherd, musician, and king:

First, David began life with the bad reputation of an *illegitimate child*.

- Psalm 51:5
- 1 Samuel 16:4
- 1 Samuel 16:11a
- 1 Samuel 16:11b
- 1 Samuel 16:12
- Psalm 27:10
- God loves people with a bad reputation.

Second, David continued in life with some bad *choices* of sin.

- 2 Samuel 11:1-26
- God loves people with bad track records.

Third, David ended life with some bad *consequences* of sin.

- 2 Samuel 12:7-15
- God loves people with bad troubles.

Fourth, remarkably, David had a terrific *relationship* with God.

- Acts 13:22
- Disclaimer: God is not condoning sin—He is calling us out of it.
- The truth remains: God loves ordinary people with all the ordinary struggles of life and He invites them to an extraordinary relationship.

Idea: Jesus shows up to help and befriend ordinary people—people with poor reputations and known sins and terrible consequences—He invites them to an extraordinary relationship.

Jesus is inviting us ordinary folks to a terrific relationship with God.

Walking Papers

Practical Helps for Walking With God

Central Truth: Jesus shows up to help and befriend ordinary people—people with poor reputations and known sins and terrible consequences—He invites them to an extraordinary relationship.

Please take some time this week to work on the life change applications from today's passage:

- **Today:** In what ways do you have a poor reputation with some folks? How do you feel about it? How does it impact your relationship with God? Is your bad reputation a permanent black mark on your relationship with God?
- **Monday:** What have you done that you regret? How do you feel about these things? Are these things a permanent black mark on your relationship with God?
- **Tuesday:** What are the consequences of sin in your life? Are these "redeemable" in any way?
- **Wednesday:** Foundationally, at the heart level, do you believe that God aches for an extraordinary relationship with a person like you? Is it true that God called a murderer and adulterer a "man after God's own heart?" Could ordinary, sinful people like us still enter into a terrific relationship with God?
- **Thursday:** Settle it today—accept it today: God is inviting an ordinary, sinful person like me into terrific relationship with Him—in fact He aches for that relationship.
- **Friday:** In order to cultivate this terrific relationship with this wonderful God I will—check one and do one:
 - Read through the Gospels and focus on Who Jesus is.
 - Write a journal entry on the fresh start and forgiveness in Christ.
 - Fast and pray for a day with a focus on accepting forgiveness and accepting the fresh start that God is offering to me.
 - Read: *David* by Charles R. Swindoll.
- **Saturday:** Spend a half hour today, alone somewhere, thanking God for the terrific forgiveness and the terrific relationship that He extends to you.

*Jesus is inviting us ordinary folks to
a terrific relationship with God.*