

Text: Matthew 9:9-13; John 1:14,18; 20:21

The Fickle Nature of Religious Opinion (Mt 11:16-19)

- John the Baptist: God's dirge of prophetic _____.
- Jesus: the arrival of God's _____ feast.

Religious opinion cannot be relied upon to help us understand how Jesus made holiness contagious.

God's Incarnational Model

- Three vital principles – _____, _____, and powerlessness.
- Jesus is a _____.
- Doctor versus _____.

A Loving Alternative to Sinful Destruction

- Jesus shows us that _____ is more contagious than _____.
- Two _____.

Life Enrichment

What about today's sermon challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- When you read the Gospels, what disturbs you about Jesus' words and actions? Why do you struggle with those things?
- How was Jesus' brand of holiness different from that of the Jewish religious leaders (see Mt 23:23-28)?
- How is Jesus' brand of holiness different from that of today's average Christian?
- Why can't we rely on the prevailing religious opinion to help us discern what true holiness is? What should we rely on to form our concept and practice of holiness?
- When God wanted to make Himself fully known to lost humanity, what did He do?
- How can we follow God's model in reaching our neighbors, friends, family, etc.?
- Do Christians today see themselves more as doctors to sinners or as living in quarantine from their sinful influences? Why?
- Can our holiness become contagious to the unredeemed? If so, how?
- What will you do to engage the not-yet-redeemed in friendship this week? What will you do to better understand them? How might you offer care? Is there a way you can interject biblical wisdom into conversations without being pompous?