

Come and Become pt 1: Hot or Not

-Hot or not.com:

-in the year 2000 an internet phenomenon hit the scene... Hot or not .com. Two silicon valley computer programmers were arguing about whether a random girl was good looking when they came up with the idea,,,,, a website where people everywhere chimed in, ranking people's attractiveness from 1 -10.

-regular people everywhere took pictures of their faces and posted them for strangers to either rain down acceptance and self esteem or to shame them with scores of 1's 2's or 3's

-you could know with the precision of a number how hot you were and therefor how valuable you were

-How hot you are is **NOT All That Matters**, but in our culture it is definitely **a way To Matter**.

-Be honest who here has ever posted a picture of themselves to Hot or Not????

-Those who have not can stop feeling superior. Because the founders of both Youtube and Facebook have said they were inspired to by Hot or Not.

-so anyone who has ever posted anything on social media and then gone back later to see how many : views, shares, likes, or follows,, is basically doing the same thing,,,,, just A LITTLE LESS NEEDY VERSION OF IT...

-Unfortunately we are no strangers to the Feeling of Uneasy Wondering About How WE RATE.

-how do we rate in our friend groups

-i a better looking than so and so,,,,, but they have more money

-I have a prettier wife but they have a Lake House

-i look younger but she is thinner.... - I am in better shape but her kids are better...

-but in all seriousness on a deeper level we wonder

-how people feel about us. -how our bosses feel about us

-and some of us sometimes wonder,, how does GOD FEEL ABOUT US

-All joking aside, how we rate does matter very much to us.

Set the Scene: the 1st Century Israel that Jesus walked into had its own ways of Rating People,,,,, you started with Complete Outsiders,,,,, and then had varying degrees of insiders.

-everybody was trying to establish who was in and who was out,,,,, and how much more of an insider they even were than others.

-Most basic division: Jews and Gentiles: in their minds God loved and was interested in the Jewish nation and **NOBODY ELSE**

-In the Ancient Jewish version of God's Hot or Not scale Jews rated 1-10,,, and then the whole rest of the world were all 0's (if you were a gentile you didn't matter enough to get a score)

-Within the Jewish Nation there were many ways to determined your importance **in contrast to your fellow jew:** -ways to get from 1-10

-if you were a man, you were worth more to God.... 4

-first born man in your family, you were worth more than your siblings.... 6

-the closer you lived to Jerusalem the more important you were (first born man living in Jerusalem.... 7)

-certain families, clans, and tribes within Israel were more important..

-certain religious sects had more honor,,,, specifically PHARISEES. 8

-Good Health and Wealth were seen as Indicators that God really liked you.

-if you were disabled or poor you were automatically lower in society

-a wealthy pharisee who was firstborn living in Jerusalem,, you might be a perfect 10

-These people could almost see God clicking them 10!!!!

-These were some of the things that supposedly let you know just where you rated on God's scale of importance.

-In that setting Jesus showed up and preached this sermon.

-Matthew 4:17 Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near.

-Repent: means to turn from one direction to another

-Repentance is not about feeling sorry or remorse,,, though those are often part of it

-repentance is a turn about.....

-The kingdom of Heaven has come near: God's system, God's Order, His agenda,,, those things are the Kingdom of Heaven

-His system of operation. -his effective sphere of influence

-the space and time where what he wants is what is done

-The people Jesus was talking to would have thought they ALREADY WERE part of the Kingdom of Heaven.

-Illustration: -imagine you worked for gym "Gary's glute factory" or "Petes Pectoral warehouse"

-you have been working there for years and one day a new personal trainer starts work and he mistakes you for a customer and says "I know fitness might seem far off for you right now, but with some hard work and dedication we will get back into good health"

-you are like, dude I am not a customer,,, I work here,,, I am a trainer

-When Jesus says turn from your old life because God's way of living (his kingdom) is coming to you,,,,, That is how it sounded to so many of these people.

-Dont you understand,, we are God's Kingdom ,,,, check our scores Jesus ,,, we are full fledged 9's and 10's

-"What do you mean Repent"

Whether you consider yourself a Sinner or a Saint, we all must Repent to participate in God's Kingdom.

-Even though Israel was God's people, you could be total insider based on their rules, and still not really be functioning according to the Will and Values of God.

-that is why Jesus invited them to repent...

-People (as a whole) turned away from God's rule and God's will in a garden called Eden thousands of years ago.

-we chose: Self Rule. Self Exaltation. Self Satisfaction

-rather than staying under the rule and direction of God we inserted our own
-rather than our purpose being to Exalt God and drawing attention to his greatness we chose to call attention to our greatness

-Rather than allow him to give us pleasure and Joy and him to be the thing we most take pleasure in,,, we chose to to pursue pleasure as a primary purpose

-that is what Adam and Eve chose to do,,, and that is what we still regularly chose to do when our sinful hearts lead us

-We are all tempted more or less in different ones of these arenas:

-for some it is power and control,,, soft power and hard power..... we lust for control and dominance in any situation we find ourselves in

-for some it is satisfaction, fun, and pleasure.... (appetites and habits rule us..)

-for some it is self exaltation,,, life is all about our pride,,, either our arrogance or insecurity (which are just different sides of the same coin)

-In Jesus' day for the devout Jews the power and the self exaltation was really the issue, as it may be for many of us still today.

-Many that the Jews saw as outsiders and sinners, for them, pleasures and appetites controlled them, many of us can relate.

-Many of us today would identify with the struggle of the "good insider" Jews. And many of us would more easily identify with prostitutes, tax collectors and other sinners of Jesus day.

-But I want you to understand this: Jesus' invitation to all groups was the same. REPENT because God's Rule has come near to you.

-Whether you are Buttoned up or Strung Out, whether you feel you fit the mold or not; Jesus' invite to all of us stands the same.

-still today we can be so much like those Jews of the 1st century

-we can look at all the things we think make us better in God's sight

-we can rank our selves against others, who seem to have uglier issues, and think we are 6 or 7

-but Jesus' invite to repent because God's Kingdom has come near was issued to the Pharisee just as much as the prostitute.

-There is not One of us or one class of us here today that Need Repentance more or less than others.

-Whichever brand of sin we have had living in us Jesus invites us to turn from our way and come into his way.

Jesus' invitation was NOT for us to BECOME something and then COME to him. His invited us to Come before we become.

-everything in this world is different,, its become then come

-get good enough then apply

-get all your personal issues worked out then I want to be around you

-get your skills in line then try out for the team

-if you are smart enough THEN YOU GET INTO THE SCHOOL

-has anyone ever noticed how backwards that is.....

-if you prove you have lots of money,,, then we will give you the loan

-this world is built on the system of "meet the requirements, then apply"

-This is why people feel like it is hateful or mean for the church to call something a sin if the Bible does so.

-because this world EXCLUDES those who don't meet the qualifications

-so we hear a belief about Marriage, sexuality, identity or something like that and because of how this world works,,,, calling that a sin feels like a slammed door in our face

-But in Jesus' first statement he is saying that NOBODY IS MEETING GOD'S STANDARD OR LIVING AS PART OF GOD'S KINGDOM, NOT EVEN THOSE WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE INSIDERS.

-turns out that there are no 8's , 9's, or 10's

-we are all in the same boat,,, we are all,,,, ZEROS.

-He invited all of us to Repent and to Come as we currently are

-You don't have to Become and then Come

-you don't have to know how you are going to stop all the sins in your life and then come be a part of the Jesus life

-just right where you are turn from the idea that you know best, turn from trying to justify yourself

-recognize your brokenness before him stop defending it,, in humility show yourself as you are to him and FEEL HIS EMBRACE

-Come, then see what HE DOES with you from there.

-Matthew 5:3-12 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(explain as you read through)

Point: Jesus Invalidated our Rating Scale. Inviting those who had never been seen as God’s kind of People.

-Jesus is not reversing the value scale. (0’s are now 10’s...)

-that would be just as exclusive as the world’s system

-Jesus is telling us that all the things we think matter simply don’t. Instead something else will matter.

-all of these qualities are not what get you somewhere with God

-there is another element (we will hit that in a moment)

-The “blessedness” is not because of the conditions described, but in spite of them.

-you are not blessed because you are meek,, or because you have a poverty in your spirit.... Or instead of possessing righteousness you are starving for it,,, you are not blessed because people are persecuting you

-In spite of all this the kingdom of heaven has come near for people just like you

-But how is that possible? How could God be inviting the worthless, wasted, and the weak to be a part of Gods Kingdom here on earth?

-Why and how would God knowingly invite a bunch of 0’s?

The Secret to Jesus’ wide open Invitation is that our partnership is based on God’s strength and value not our own.

-(bring the image with the beatitudes back on the screen)

-notice : they will BE comforted,,, they will Inherit,,, they will BE FILLED,,, will be SHOWN MERCY,,, they will be CALLED children of God

-The Blessedness is not Attained by us, but is being given to us or done for us.

-The reason God can invite 0's (which all of us are together) is that it is not our strength that will bring victory in his kingdom .

-it is not our Value or Rightness that grants us access to it

-it is not our Quality that Qualifies us.

-Hundreds of years before Jesus came the prophet Isaiah perceived this as the condition of God's people.

-Isaiah 64: 5-9 You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all of our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. Yet you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, do not remember our sins Forever.

-I love what Isaiah said, "if we would just be good you would gladly embrace us
-it is so simple.....

-here is our problem WE ARE NEVER GOOD

-even when we think we are being good,, our best righteousness when seen from God's perspective looks like Filthy Rags

-There is a standard and we don't meet it, but yet you are OUR FATHER, God you must have a solution.

-there must be a way for you to remember our sins no more.....

-there must be a way for this standard to be met <<<< If not by us.

-if we are all 0's there must be a 10 somewhere

-700 years later Jesus stepped on the scene saying "blessed are you now if your righteousness is like filthy rags! (if you are POOR IN SPIRIT) Blessed are you if your sin carries you away like dried leaves on the wind,(if you hunger and thirst for righteousness) because God has come near"

-There is now a way for God to fulfill the standard of Righteousness in the place of all the 0's.

-Come and Approach God's Kingdom unfolding on the earth through Jesus. He will be enough for you.

-he will meet the standard you cannot meet which brings the blessing of God on you

-Romans 3:21 But now a righteousness apart from the law has been made known, to which the law and the prophets testify . This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and gentile for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood to be received by faith.

-Jesus came as a 10 to be a 10 for all of us 0's

-by putting faith in him he becomes the face God sees when he rates us
-by following him over time he transforms us by grace making what we are in reality match up to what we are by faith in Jesus.

-As we go forward in this series we will talk about all the cool and positive things God wants to do through you.

-ways that living out the Kingdom of God here and now will revolutionize your life:

-family. -your work -your inner thought and emotional life. -friendships

-transform communities, schools

-a life that is Peace and soul filling not soul draining

-for you and those your life bumps up against

-you get to become part of what is right, whole, and healing in the world

-Great exploits and lives of great meaning and impact are not reserved for the 8's 9's and 10's.

-God invites all of us. Not the HOTS.... But the NOTS....

-He is hot in our place in ways we could never be.

-and in the end his grace and living in response to his kingdom brings a beauty to us that far exceeds anything we could ever manage on our own.