

“Not Like Me: Curry Favor”

By Eric Bryant

Mosaic (Peppermint-Filled Pinatas series)

Show “Curry Favor Series Promo”

“Wouldn’t that be nice? The real world doesn’t really work that way, does it?”

Not known by love. Need to love those with whom we disagree or dislike or disregard or those with whom we are different. It doesn’t have to be that way.

Greatest commandment to love God and love people

Some of us wish Jesus would have just said “love God.” Loving God comes naturally for some of us. Loving people more natural for others.

To love God means to love people. To truly love people we need supernatural help from a loving God.

People are hard to love.

Acts 2:47 “enjoying the favor of all the people”

Do the people in your community like you? Do people in your city like your church?

Early Christians considered a cult – eating flesh, drinking blood, coming back to life

In spite of what were considered ridiculous beliefs, people liked them. People weren’t repelled by their beliefs as much as they were intrigued by their character.

In the community. Mtg. needs. God moved they went with Him. We would have stayed in the room amazed at what God doing among us when tongues. Diversity from the beginning.

Enjoy favor by getting to know our neighbors. Lonely. Book about LA 1935.

We cannot assume others caring for those around us. Subway death in NYC.

Love, serve, and invest in our family, neighbors, co-workers, and friends. (easy to share with a stranger)

SooHoos small group helped us move. Helped us after Caleb’s birth with a meal every day for 2 months. Small gesture but without family that meant the world to us!

Party theology. Jesus to Levi’s house.

Luke 5:27-32 Parties give us natural environments to build relationships.

Ruin reputation

Transitions

When people are most open to God and discovering a relationship with Him in the midst of life’s major transitions – wedding, birthday, birth, move, even in mourning. Are you involved in the lives of people who do not know God or perhaps even despise Christians so that in those moments of openness they will turn to you for help, encouragement, or guidance? Look for opportunities to party: Christy’s birthday party

Look for opportunities to serve: Neighbors –Are you there for those who are hurting?
Broken and hurting world.

Summerfest. Buying candy. Cheap parents (tadpole, miniature golf, cashews)
Peppermints 600 for \$6. Kids like hitting piñatas. Debbie saved the party.
Some of us do not interact at all with those who do not believe. I would imagine many
more of us do connect with seekers, but you may be making the same mistake I made that
day. We make people go through a great deal of effort like hitting a piñata (learn our
songs, discuss our topics, speak our language, live the way we do (or say we do)) yet
when they finally break through they get something cheap and unsatisfying. We offer
them something to believe that is sweet. They want something to live for. They want to
be a part of changing the world.

We need to remove the barriers we have put up between ourselves and the world outside
of Christ. Do everything we can to move the conversation past religion and into a
relationship with Christ. Total surrender

Debbie saved the party. Did you know kids don't like peppermints in their Halloween
bags either?

Do you enjoy the favor of those around you? Are you known by love and generosity?

We need to express love for those with whom we disagree, with those with whom we
differ, and with those we too often disregard. We hide from the world too much.

Love = Sacrifice

Sometimes people don't know how to respond to love (wounded puppy)

Dangerous to love – Jesus was criticized by religious leaders and eventually killed by the
government and religious leaders and an angry mob.

Sometimes we love and not received well. We will disappoint each other.

When you love, you take a risk.

Early church persecuted

Jesus killed by religious leaders, government following rules

Following Jesus means following Him in live, love, and a complete surrender to love God
and love people.