

THE CHURCH CRACKED OPEN

Stewardship of Privilege: Using Your Power as Jesus Used His

Jesus's Example

Jesus loved extravagantly: his friends, his enemies, and God.

In Jesus, God came among human beings, lived, wept, and died with us.

Jesus embraced human life, in its most humble and painful form.

Jesus released control of his path so God could lead instead.

Jesus risked it all by coming to be among us, loving when he was not loved, being open to correction, and refusing to

On the highways and byways of Galilee and beyond, Jesus walked with people and offered his listening ear and heart.

Jesus trusted a woman – Mary – to carry the message that he had risen from the dead.

God, in uniting divinity with humanity through Jesus, actually raised humanity and deified us (Richard Hooker).

Jesus promised to intercede on our behalf and carry our prayers to his Father.

Jesus incurred the wrath of the domination system because he stood with the oppressed.

Jesus lived simply and encouraged people to look into their bags, share their possessions, and feed one another . . . and

Jesus welcomes us into the relationship he shares with his Father and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus turned everything upside down, disobeyed unjust rules, and honored the least of these, in order to bring all things back into right relationship.

Note: Throughout life, you may hold power or be on the underside. Your community may also hold privileges you don't personally possess. Remember: Most have some form of privilege we can leverage to bless others and the whole.

Your Opportunity

LOVE the face and voice of God you see and hear in the presence of others.

CARE and carry each other's burdens, even though your privilege means you could just turn the other way.

EMBRACE uncomfortable spaces and experiences, and model vulnerability for others who share your privilege.

SURRENDER over-controlling behaviors and discern God's will in relationship with people who are oppressed.

RISK making the first move, sharing your own story, being wrong, appearing less-than-perfect, and receiving the anger

LISTEN with love to the stories of people who are oppressed, exploited, and have been denied privileges and

TRUST the perspective and wisdom of people who are least respected.

CELEBRATE the cultures, gifts, and lives of groups who have been silenced or devalued.

SPEAK hard truths that people who share your privilege can hear from you.

SUFFER the displeasure and even the anger of the systems that privilege you, by stepping outside their bounds.

SACRIFICE possessions and resources for the sake of love, so that no one has too much and no one goes without.

SHARE privileged access and usher less privileged people into spaces and relationships that advance liberation for the

DISMANTLE systems that reinforce domination, distribute privilege unequally, and diminish human life.
