

Unsung: "I See You" September 28 & 29

Speaker: Pastor Joshua Symonette **Scripture:** Luke 5:12-16

Series Overview

The story of God is propelled by people whose names we will never know – people leading quiet lives of prayer, obedience, and faithfulness. They are people who believe with deep conviction that history belongs to the intercessors, that change happens on the other side of long obedience in the same direction, and that faithfulness shapes generations.

Series Questions

Who is an unsung hero in your life? Share a story of someone that has radically changed your life from behind the scenes.

Sermon Overview

Jesus added value to those who were described as having no value in society (Luke 5:12-14). And he made a practice of seeing the unseen. One of the synonyms for "unsung" is unseen. The encouragement is for those of us who are Jesus followers to intentionally see and touch the unseen.

Sermon Questions

Pastor Joshua said that what we see and what we don't see is an indicator of value. Who are some people we see and place a lot of value on in today's culture? Who do we not see? How might you go out of your way to celebrate, praise, or value those who might normally go unseen?

In addition to the man with leprosy in Luke 5 and the woman caught in adultery, in what other situations do you see Jesus elevating unlikely people?

Pastor Joshua mentioned that Jesus disrupts cultural norms, including how we think about and ascribe value. Not only does the man with leprosy break the rules by talking to Jesus, but Jesus breaks the rules by both talking to and touching the man. What norms exist today that we need to break? What could it look like for you to disrupt these cultural norms today by engaging with those who are overlooked and undervalued?

"No matter who you are, what you've done, what has been done to you, what you have, or what you don't have, Jesus is saying, 'I see you and I want to touch your life." Do you believe that regardless of your circumstances, God sees you? How does knowing this change how you might view your current circumstances?

Practical Application

- Commit to praying every day this week for a person or group of people you tend to overlook and undervalue this week.
- □ Take a step this week to engage with a person you tend to overlook. This could look like smiling and saying hello, or sitting down in a conversation.
- Send a note of encouragement to someone reminding them that God sees them and that they are valued.
- Check out <u>https://theaterchurch.com/missions/get-involved</u> to join with NCC partners and initiatives in making a difference with those whom we often overlook.