

# Outline

## AmazinG RACE Relay Leg #2

*New Testament Idol: Groupies, Critics, and the Rock Star*

This message is based on the readings of March 24 – 30 in the One Year Bible in the AmazinG Race. In this week of readings, we follow Jesus as he ministers to a variety of people. He takes the show on the road and like a Rock Star in present day, he has all sorts of groupies following Him. The interesting thing about these groupies is that they are all whacked. They are out there and they are a needy bunch. In this group we find an Army General of a different race with a terminally sick slave, a grieving mother with a dead son, corrupt businessmen, a prostitute, and a truly weird woman who had seven demons living in her – all who came to believe in Jesus as the Son of God with a faith that caused the Son of God to marvel at them. Let's look a little more closely at some of the “whacked groupies following Jesus.

### 1. The Rock Star, The Band called “*The Apostles*,” and The Groupies

The Band—One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them. Luke 6:12 NIV

The Kick-Off Concert—He went down with them and stood on a level place. A great number of people from all over had come to hear him. Luke 6:17 NIV

The Groupies—Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. Luke 6:18 NIV

The Music—But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:27, 29-31 NIV

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:32-34, 36 NIV

And ... just like a Rock Star, Jesus had his critics – the “normal” people who had nothing wrong with them and lived in the “proper” and fashionable way. They looked good, smelled good, talked right, lived right, but they did not get Jesus. They criticized John the Baptist for not partying enough and Jesus for partying too much. His tune was just too “pitchy,” and he definitely chose the “wrong song.” He was never going to make it big and needed to change to be more like the status quo and quit hanging with the “wackos!”

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## 2. The Judges (Simon, Paula, And Randy)

But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves. Jesus began to speak to the crowd: "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.' For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners." ' Luke 7:30-34 NIV

But it was the “wackos” that got Jesus, not the critics. It was those who had much to be forgiven that enjoyed His forgiveness. Those who thought they were good enough, got left behind in the message of the Gospel. It is still true today – those who think they are good enough get left behind in the Gospel, but isn't it true, we are all a little bit whacked and in need of a Savior?

## 3. The Groupies got Jesus; the critics did not.

A General of a Different Race—There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. Luke 7:2-3 NIV

A Sinful Prostitute—Now one of the Pharisees (Judge) invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Luke 7:36-38, 50 NIV

A Crazy Woman—After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out. Luke 8:1-2 NIV

A Dangerous Criminal—They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains, The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus said, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him. Luke 8:26-27, 29, 38-39 NIV

## 4. Be a Groupie, not a Critic.

- Groupies know they need the Rock Star; Critics have to be right.
- Memorize the songs and live them.
- **Go be a Rock Star for Jesus – A Jesus Freak that tells everyone about Him.**

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