

# FALLING IN LOVE

with  
the



COMMUNITY

*Pastor Hanke's Blog*  
*August 19, 2018*

## Falling in Love with the Community: UNSEEN

Bible Reference: Mark 6:53-56

The topics these last two weeks seem similar at first glance—often overlooked (last week) & unseen (this week). But when you really stop to think about it, they are completely different. The often overlooked are easier to see. They are the ones we intentionally overlook because we don't want to deal with them. They are the lepers, the cancer patients, and the homeless. The unseen, however, are the people we thoughtlessly pass by every day in the grocery store, at the gas pump, or who are sitting at the table next to us in a restaurant. Do we ever take the time to see them?

This morning I am writing the blog in a coffee shop. Next to me are two people who are on a date. They are sharing stories about their kids and the times they get to see them based on the terms of their divorce settlements. Don't worry; I didn't dive into their conversation. But what I learned from overhearing just that little bit is that these are two broken families who need Jesus. I wonder about their kids, and the brokenness they see and feel. Those kids also need Jesus.

There are so many people that go unseen in our everyday life. I admit that seeing them is hard because we are caught up in our own world and the things on our plate. We have jobs, responsibilities, and families. But in this series we are talking about falling in love with the community, and the community is made up of couples in coffee shops, and people all around us in our every day life. The unseen can actually be hard to get to. Unlike the cancer patients and the lepers who scream for help because they are desperate to find a solution to their illness, the unseen think they are ok when really they are sick with sin and don't even know it. The brokenness in their lives speak that they are anything but ok. However, many times the only way the unseen will listen is when they know we love them. This is where Jesus helps us; He helps us love all people, even if we don't know them. When the unseen see that you love them, not based on who they are but rather just because they are a precious creation of your God, they are blown away. Then they want to see and learn more about this Jesus who shapes you to be this way.

This week our reading is all about the unseen. They were regular people doing regular things, but when Jesus entered, they left their jobs and their houses and came looking for

Him. They heard stories about how this man was different than any other man, and they wanted to meet Him. In this day and age, people will see Jesus when they see that your heart is different than the other unseen people around them and wonder why it is that you care about all people in the community. I believe Jesus helps us to have this kind of love for our community and the people in it. On Sunday we will talk about this love for the unseen.

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*