



Discussion Guide: Shane Claiborne

Resurrecting Church

Reflect

- At the beginning of his talk, Shane refers to a 2012 Barna Group resource, [UnChristian](#), which surveyed perceptions of Christianity among non-Christians. The top three responses were: anti-gay, judgmental, and hypocritical. When have you encountered similar perceptions about Christianity in your own experience? Where do you think these perceptions come from?
- Imagine that a similar survey was conducted in first-century Israel. Which sort of people would have had negative views of Jesus? Why? Which sorts of people would have had positive views of Jesus? Why?
- As a college student, Shane spent time with Mother Theresa serving the poor and orphans in Calcutta, India. He recalls Mother Theresa saying, "Calcuttas are everywhere, if we only have eyes to see." Where are the Calcuttas in your context? Why do you think it is sometimes harder to see places of need in our own backyards than in another country?

Respond

- Shane summarizes Jesus' message as not so much about getting people up to heaven when they die but about bringing the kingdom of heaven down to earth while we live. Which of his illustrations of this principle most moved you? What examples would you want to add based on your own experience?
- Shane asks the rhetorical question: "What does it mean to be the church in the world right now?" Think about your own faith community. How could it participate in the resurrection of "church" in your context? What would this look like?