Sermon: **People were watching Jesus closely** (Luke 7.1). **Jesus noticed…** (Luke 7.7)

What have Donald Trump, Boris Johnson and Jesus have in common? You can’t help noticing them.

Jesus was controversial and TEXTa. Why?

1. To spot his mistakes? (vv 2-6 Jesus healed on the Sabbath! Jesus got signs of 2nd coming wrong!)
2. To work out whether or not to trust Jesus? (Was Jesus the promised Messiah? A fake?)
3. To try & find ways to avoid his challenge? (he is loose on keeping Law, mixes with wrong sort, etc)

Do we try to do the same?

1. Is Jesus just a good man with odd ideas? (Is he somehow deluded, or mistaken?)
2. Do we claim we can manage ourselves without Jesus’ help? (so many seem to do so effectively)
3. Do we avoid his challenge as irrelevant, too difficult, inappropriate? (loving enemies, forgiving others, mixing with riff-raff)

NB TEXTb. What is Jesus looking for?

1. Is he looking for our mistakes, like some fearsome father or deputy headmaster?
2. Is he trying to work out if he can trust us? (with Kingdom, NB parable of gold coins [Luke 19.11ff]
3. Is he thinking of his next challenge to us? (removing bad habit, attitude, new ministry)

This passage also asks us “Where are *we* looking?”

1. At how others see us? (sermons are not about the preacher!) – less important
2. At how we see others? (are some beneath our gaze? do we fawn over celebrities?) – more important

The Kingdom of God is for all regardless of status, ability, wealth, length of service….

How far we agree and apply this will show Jesus what we are truly like as individuals and as a people who claim to follow Jesus – TEXTb. What will Jesus notice about you?