

Jesus Is The Way

Lesson 1: Finding Jesus



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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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Lesson 1: Finding Jesus

Introduction

A. Life is like a journey. We've all been somewhere and we're all going somewhere. So, we need to step back from our lives and honestly reflect on our journeys up to this point.

1. "Where have I been?" "Where am I at?" And, "where am I heading?" Answering these questions honestly will help you maintain perspective on your journey and not get lost.

2. Sadly, many people don't stop long enough to honestly consider these three questions. Maybe they're too busy, scared of the answer, don't know how to find the answer, etc. So, they continue wandering through their lives, going wherever life takes them.

3. Yet, finding true meaning, fulfillment, joy, and satisfaction in life doesn't happen by accident. It only comes by following the one who leads to these things!

B. The Bible boils all the confusion of life down to only two options (Matthew 7:13-14).

1. You can walk on the broad road. This is the easiest path to walk on and is the road most people are on. However, while those who walk on this road will experience some pleasurable things on their journey, they are headed for eternal destruction in Hell. Therefore, walking on this road is a complete waste of your life!

2. You can walk on the narrow road. This road is difficult. It requires sacrifice and endurance. There are only a relative few who are walking on it. However, while those who walk on this road make short term sacrifices, they are headed for eternal life in Heaven!

C. You must honestly reflect on your life and consider which of these two paths you're currently on. Then, if you want to walk on the path that leads to eternal life in Heaven, you must recognize that Jesus is the Way (John 14:1-6)!

D. Throughout this series, we want to consider what it means for Jesus to be the “Way” and how to follow Him.

E. Purpose: To learn how to find and get to know the real Jesus.

1. Finding The Real Jesus

A. False sources of information about Jesus

1. There are many false sources of information about Jesus. For, there has never been a more polarizing person to live on this earth than Jesus Christ. So, we need to recognize that every source of information that originates with people can be wrong. Consider a few popular sources people get information from to form their views about Jesus.

2. Books. Countless books have been written about Jesus. Yet, if you compared them all, they would not all agree with each other. Ultimately, the authors are going to lead you to the Jesus they have come to know.

3. The internet. The internet contains more information (even about Jesus) than one could possibly sift through. Yet, there is no single truth presented about Jesus online. Ultimately, the authors will lead you to the Jesus they have come to know.

4. Family. Many learn about Jesus for the first time through family members. Yet, family members often know different people they all call “Jesus” and will lead you to the Jesus they know.

5. Friends. Some learn about Jesus through their friends. Yet, they may all have different ideas about who Jesus is and will lead you to the Jesus they have come to know.

6. Preachers. Preachers have the responsibility to help people know Jesus. But, there are many preachers who do not know the real Jesus themselves. These will lead you to the Jesus they know.

7. Movies. People have often put Jesus into movies, television shows, and plays. In doing so, they portray certain ideas about who Jesus is. Still, they will only work to lead you to the Jesus they know.

8. Teachers. Some educators try to help students find Jesus, while others try to destroy Him. Regardless, they will only work to lead you to the Jesus they have come to know.

9. My point is this: You will not find the real Jesus through any source that originates with people! While it is possible for somebody to have found the real Jesus and try to help others get to know the real Jesus, they are not the source of information about Jesus!

- Don't believe anything about Jesus because of what someone has said. Nobody (no matter how much you respect them or how smart they may be) can lead you to the real Jesus by themselves!

B. "Come and see"

1. How do we ever find and come to know the real Jesus? There are some interesting stories in John 1 about people finding Jesus.

- John the Baptist introduced two of his followers to Jesus and they followed Him (vv. 35-37). One of these two people was Andrew. Andrew then found Peter (his brother) and led him to Jesus (vv. 40-42).
- The next day, Jesus found Philip and told Philip to follow Him (v. 43). Philip then told Nathanael he had found Jesus (v. 45). When Nathanael questioned, Philip invited him to come and see (v. 46). When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, He proved Himself to be the Son of God (vv. 47-51).

2. According to the Bible's record, people could get to know the real Jesus during the time He lived on this earth by talking with Him, listening to Him, and witnessing what He did (i.e. miracles). People could literally come and see Jesus to find and know Him.

- Although someone might lead another to Jesus, they would actually get to know Jesus by listening to and looking at Him themselves!

3. Since Jesus does not live on this earth today, you cannot walk up to Him, introduce yourself, spend time with Him, and physically follow Him. Still, there is a way you can come and see Jesus. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to know Him for yourself!

- You can find and get to know the real Jesus through the Bible. But, why is the Bible so different from all the other sources of information about Jesus?

- It contains the perfect words of God that never change (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Old Testament foretold His coming and told people exactly what they should look for and how they would know when Jesus came through more than 300 prophecies. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John provide God-inspired eyewitness accounts of Jesus's life that help us understand how Jesus lived, what He taught, and what He did (Luke 1:1-4). Then, the books of Acts through Revelation provide more teaching of Jesus as revealed through the Holy Spirit (John 16:12-14; Ephesians 3:3-6).
- It is when you read what is written in the pages of the Bible that you can come and see so as to find the real Jesus! This is the *only* perfect source of information about Jesus!

2. Getting To Know Jesus

A. The Father's Son

1. There are many Bible passages that introduce Jesus as the Son of God. God (the Father) declared that Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the son of Mary and Joseph, really was His Son (Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 17:5).

2. While some interpret this to mean that Jesus was the Father's first creation (and, therefore, not eternal), the Bible shows us quite a different fact (John 1:1). Jesus possesses the full nature of being God (He is eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present). The Bible uses this language of Jesus Christ as the Son of God to show that He really is God.

3. As the Son of God, He has been given all authority and is worthy to receive worship and service from us! He is the King!

B. Immanuel

1. Along with being called the Son of God, Jesus is also called the Son of Man (John 1:49-51). Jesus really did take on a human body while He was on this earth (Philippians 2:5-8).

2. As the prophecy indicated, Jesus would be born of a virgin and He would be called "Immanuel," which meant "God is with us"

(Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). So, the “Word” who was with God in the beginning became flesh and lived on this earth (John 1:1-3, 14).

3. Jesus Christ was God living as a man. While it is impossible for people to understand all the intricacies of how this worked, Jesus Christ was *not* just a good man who lived on the earth, an influential leader, or a prophet sent from God. Rather, He was God in human form!

C. Sinless

1. Every person to live on this earth and reach maturity has sinned against God by violating God’s law, choosing to fulfill their physical desires rather than obey God. When Jesus was on earth, He would also face temptation.

2. Jesus faced all the same sources of temptation we face. Yet, He did not sin because He was determined to please God throughout His earthly life and do the work He had been sent to accomplish (Hebrews 4:15).

3. An example of Jesus being tempted can be seen in Matthew 4:1-11. Yet, Jesus rejected Satan and obeyed God!

D. Miracle-worker

1. Jesus did not expect people to believe Him to be the Son of God without any evidence. First, He offered the evidence of hundreds of fulfilled prophecy. Second, Jesus offered the evidence of many miracles no one else could do besides God.

2. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John show Jesus performing many signs and wonders that could not have been done by any mere human. He turned water into wine, cast out demons, walked on water, made the blind see, made the lame walk, calmed the sea, raised the dead, and much more!

3. Even though we cannot watch Jesus perform these things with our own eyes today, we can believe He is the Son of God by reading the God-inspired eyewitness accounts of His miracles that prove He is who He claimed to be (John 20:30-31)!

E. Teacher

1. Although God communicated His word to people in various ways before Jesus came to earth, God would use Jesus to teach (Hebrews 1:1-3). And, some who heard Jesus teach while He was on

earth recognized He taught as one who had authority (Matthew 7:28-29).

2. Jesus taught many things to correct the religious elites of His day, gave parables about His coming kingdom, and laid the foundation for His new and better law. Then, before He returned to Heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to His apostles (John 16:12-14). So, Jesus's teachings are not just the words He spoke on this earth. Instead, Jesus's teachings include the entire New Testament (1 Corinthians 14:37)!

3. Jesus's teaching was not about making people feel good and feel accepted (though it was with love), nor was it a doctrine that only required people to mentally accept Him as Lord. Rather, Jesus's teachings offended many who would not obey Him (Matthew 15:1-14) and He taught those who professed but did not obey Him would be condemned (Matthew 7:21-23).

F. Lamb of God

1. The only way God could forgive the sins people commit was through blood (Hebrews 9:22). God's justice demands life as a payment for sin. However, not just any blood would do (Hebrews 10:4). A sinless sacrifice was needed.

2. John 3:16. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he proclaimed Him to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)! Like a lamb led to the slaughter, Jesus came to earth and endured everything required to save people from sin!

3. He was mocked, severely beaten, spat on, and fastened to the cross with nails through His hands and feet and left to hang there until He died. In doing this, Jesus's blood provided the necessary sacrifice to bring about the forgiveness of sin!

G. Resurrected Savior

1. Jesus's body was taken down from the cross and put into a closely guarded tomb (Matthew 27:62-68). Still, Jesus rose from the dead! On the third day, the stone was rolled away from the tomb by an angel and Jesus's body was not there (Matthew 28:5-6)!

2. Many people would see the resurrected Savior between this time and His ascension to Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:6). These people who saw the resurrected Christ were even so convinced they served a

risen Savior, they were willing to be put to death for Him. Therefore, Jesus is alive – and He is now at the right hand of God in Heaven (Acts 1:9-11; Acts 2:33)!

3. Jesus's resurrection demonstrates God's power over death. If Jesus would not have risen, there would be no hope for a future resurrection. And, if there is no resurrection, everyone might as well live to please themselves (1 Corinthians 15:16-19).

H. Judge

1. Jesus is coming again (Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 9:27-28)! The first time Jesus came, He came as the Savior. The second time He comes will be as the Judge (2 Corinthians 5:10).

2. Jesus gave Himself to die so that everyone could be saved. Jesus has made His teachings available so people can believe, know, and follow Him. However, Jesus knows that not everyone will choose to believe, know, and follow Him.

3. Contrary to popular opinion that says Jesus is only loving and will not punish anyone (except, perhaps, the "worst" sinners), Jesus teaches He will only save those who obey Him (Hebrews 5:9). For all the rest, they will experience God's vengeance (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

Conclusion

A. Where have you been? Where are you at? And, where are you going? Do you want to find meaning, fulfillment, joy, satisfaction, and a home in Heaven?

B. Jesus is the only Way – the real Jesus (John 14:6)! The only way you get to know Him is through the words written in the pages of the Bible. So, ask yourself, "Have I found the real Jesus?" For, this Jesus is Messiah, Lord, and King!

Study Questions

Take a moment to answer the following questions about your journey in life.

Where have you been?

Where are you at?

Where are you heading?

What are the only two paths to choose from? Why is Jesus so important?

1. Finding The Real Jesus

What are some false sources of information about Jesus? Why are they all false sources of information?

1.

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7.

How were people invited to “come and see” the real Jesus in John 1?
How can you “come and see” the real Jesus today?

2. Getting To Know Jesus

Why is it important to know Jesus as the Father's Son?

Why is it important to know Jesus as Immanuel?

Why is it important to know Jesus as being sinless?

Why is it important to know Jesus as being a miracle-worker?

Why is it important to know Jesus as the teacher?

Why is it important to know Jesus as the Lamb of God?

Why is it important to know Jesus as the resurrected Savior?

Why is it important to know Jesus as the Judge?

