

## Jesus the Christ

I want to explore the question ...

Q: How well do we know Jesus the Christ?

It is not enough just to learn about Jesus, we want to know Jesus.

Scriptures- much to say about who Jesus is ...

>all the fulness of the Father is in Christ

Col 2.9

>He exactly represents- nature of- Father

Heb 1.3, Col 1.15

>He is Truth- He is not just a wise

philosopher- He is- source of truth itself

Jn 14.6

>He is resurrection life- He overcame death and is eternally seated-right hand-Father

Jn 14.6

>He is- good shepherd- loves us and died for us, so we could live forever w/Him

Jn 10.11

As Pastor Jim mentioned two weeks ago ...

**Eph 3:20 (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,**

Early on in Jesus ministry we find this verse ...

**Mark 6:2–3 (NASB95)**

**2When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?**

**3“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.**

First- people were surprised by- wisdom Jesus had- after all He was just the carpenters son. Never let anyone tell you that you are ONLY this or that or you are JUST this or that.

Do not let others or yourself define you as anything less than who God says you are. That includes your own self-talk- things we say to ourselves about ourselves ...

- >I am so stupid
- >I am an idiot
- >I will never amount to anything
- >I am a complete failure.

Do not listen to anything contrary to the Word of God about who you are.

**2 Cor 5:17 ... he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**

**1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession ...**

**Rom 8:17 ... heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ ...**

Second, like they were w/Jesus- what would it be like if people- amazed at the wisdom we have?

**1 Corinthians 1:26–27 (NASB95)**

**26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according**

**to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;**

**27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,**

Today our society is enthralled by “the experts”. Every news program brings in a panel of experts. These experts supposedly evaluate everything from a rational/logical/truthful perspective. And we are expected to believe them because they are the experts.

I highly regard rational/logical thinking, but we live in a reality- goes far beyond the natural world.

**Jn 4:24 “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

**Col 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,**

**Eph 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

**1 Cor 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.**

James talks about a wisdom that is not from above compared to the wisdom from above. We have- privilege of understanding the world in which we live from a reality that stretches from the earthly to the spiritual to the eternal. Our eyes have been opened to a greater reality.

Never be intimidated by the wisdom of this world.  
Going back to **Mk 6** ... where they took offense at  
Jesus because of who He was ...

**Mark 6:5-6 (NASB95)**

**5**And He could do no miracle there  
except that He laid His hands on a few  
sick people and healed them.

**6**And He wondered at their unbelief. And  
He was going around the villages  
teaching.

They ...

- >heard Jesus share wisdom from above
- >watched Jesus perform miracles
- ... yet they still did not believe.

Sometimes we face situations in life and our  
response is one of unbelief, doubt, fear.

**I do not want to be like the people in Mk6  
where Jesus was amazed at their  
unbelief. I want to live in such a way that  
God is amazed by my faith.**

Consider the Centurion who came to Jesus  
asking Him to heal his servant.

Jesus told him He would go to his house to heal  
his servant- look at Centurion's response ...

**Matthew 8:8-9 (NASB95)**

**8**But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not  
worthy for You to come under my roof,  
but just say the word, and my servant  
will be healed.

**9**"For I also am a man under authority,  
with soldiers under me; and I say to this  
one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another,

**‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave,  
‘Do this!’ and he does it.”**

**10 Now when Jesus heard this, He  
marveled and said to those who were  
following, “Truly I say to you, I have not  
found such great faith with anyone in  
Israel.**

The Centurion had not yet seen his servant  
healed yet expressed complete confidence in  
Jesus ability to heal.

Jesus marveled over this man’s faith.

In someway, this man encountered- Living Christ  
and his heart was filled with faith.

Consider- Syrophenician woman who came to  
Jesus asking for Him to heal her daughter ...

**Matthew 15:24–27 (NASB95)**

**24But He answered and said, “I was sent  
only to the lost sheep of the house of  
Israel.”**

**25But she came and began to bow down  
before Him, saying, “Lord, help me!”**

**26And He answered and said, “It is not  
good to take the children’s bread and  
throw it to the dogs.”**

**27But she said, “Yes, Lord; but even the  
dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from  
their masters’ table.”**

I think He was testing her to know what she  
believed- what did her faith look like?

She was not going to take NO- I believe in that  
moment she encountered the Living Christ.

**Mat 15:28 Then Jesus said to her, “O  
woman, your faith is great; it shall be**

**done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed at once.**

Consider- woman who had been bleeding- years-

**Luke 8:43–48 (NASB95)**

**43And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone,**

**44came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped.**

**45And Jesus said, “Who is the one who touched Me?” And while they were all denying it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing in on You.”**

**46But Jesus said, “Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me.”**

Our faith can activate and draw forth power from the Lord to meet our need.

If we are not willing to step out in faith, put it all on the line- we may not see the miraculous.

**47When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed.**

**48And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”**

This woman reached out in faith and encountered Christ, the Messiah.

Contrast these incredible testimonies with the faith struggle of Jesus' closest disciples.

Shortly after the disciples had watched Jesus multiply the food and feed thousands ...

**Mk 6:52 for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.**

What events in our lives are we NOT learning from, NOT gaining insight from?

I choose, even in little things that happen in life- which I could assume- chance/natural process.

I choose ...

**Psalm 29:2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in holy array.**

We can ...

>call ourselves Christians

>walk with Jesus for many years

... and yet we may find ourselves with an unbelieving heart.

I do not want this to be the testimony of my life.

Ask God to give you eyes to see, to recognize His hand in the smallest events in your life.

When Jesus died on- cross/breathed His last ...

**Matthew 27:51–53 (NASB95)**

**<sup>51</sup>And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.**

**<sup>52</sup>The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;**

**53and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.**

Typically we read over verses like this and do not give them a second thought.

What would happen if you were out at the mall and your dead uncle Joe walks by?

I would think that would be a rather startling moment- how would you respond ...

>I must be hallucinating

>I stayed up too late last night

>I had too many cups of coffee

Hopefully you would stop your uncle/talk to him.

Now go home and you tell the rest of your family who you just saw-

what are they going to say ...

>you are out of your mind

>what have you been smoking?

>should not talk about- dead like that

What am I willing to believe based on the testimony of scripture/the message of- KofG?

How much confidence/trust am I going to place in God and His Word? (Mat 12.39-40, Jn 20.27-29)

After His death/burial- some women went to Jesus tomb to anoint him with spices.

**Mat 28:2, 5-7, 10-11**

**2And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.**

**5The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.**



**6“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.**

**7“Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”**

**Mark 16:10–11 (NASB95)**

**10She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping.**

**11When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.**

These were Jesus closest disciples- they had walked/lived/eaten with Him for three years.

They obviously knew the man Jesus.

The situation only gets worse- they go to the mountain Jesus told them to go to.

Jesus appears to them on the mountain just moments before His ascension ...

**Mat 28:17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.**

The disciples had ...

>watched Jesus perform miracle/miracle

>Jesus told them of His impending death and resurrection

How could they be so blind?

Going back to **Mk 16** after the women had told the disciples they had seen- resurrected

Christ- Jesus appears to them ...

**Mk 16:14** Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

Notice that Jesus equates unbelief with hardness of heart.

Jesus rebuked the disciples for their unbelief.

Unbelief can be a powerful force in our lives.

Unbelief is like a weed that grows in the garden of our heart and chokes out our faith.

It is not necessarily that we lack faith, but we allow unbelief in our hearts.

Be careful ...

>what thoughts you entertain in your mind

>of the people you hang out with

>media/entertainment- expose yourself to

Avoid anything that would undermine your faith.

The crux of- problem for- disciples was that they-

>knew Jesus the man but they were

>not well acquainted w/Jesus the Christ

Knowing about the man Jesus is not the same as having an encounter w/the Living Christ.

Many of us have read our Bible's for years and we know much about the man Jesus.

But have we had an encounter w/Living Christ?

An encounter that that takes us beyond our natural knowledge and understanding.

**Any reading of the Bible that does not lead to an encounter with the God of the Bible has missed the mark in some way.  
Bill Johnson**

Consider the following story- two man walking and discussing all that had happened ...

**Luke 24:15-19, 25-31 (NASB95)**

**15**While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them.

**16**But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

**17**And He said to them, “What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?” And they stood still, looking sad.

**18**One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, “Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?”

**19**And He said to them, “What things?”

And they said to Him, “The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,

They saw **Jesus as a mighty prophet**- had they not understood that Jesus was God?

The men explained to Jesus all- had taken place.

**25**And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

**26**“Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?”

**27**Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them

**the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.**

**28**And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther.

**29**But they urged Him, saying, “Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over.” So He went in to stay with them.

**30**When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them.

**31**Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

The resurrected Christ took time to walk w/these men and to open their eyes to the scriptures.

These men had an encounter w/Living Christ.

The resurrected Christ will do the same for us today if we earnestly seek Him.

It is not enough to know about Jesus, we need an encounter with the Living Christ.

## **Conclusion**

Read the Word prayerfully- ask God to reveal Himself- every phrase/verse/part of the Bible.

The ultimate goal is to meet the God of the Word, to encounter the Living Christ.

In everyday life events begin to ascribe the good things that happen to the Lord.

This will help build faith in your hearts.

Jesus- speaking to the religious leaders ...

**John 5:39-40** “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

**40**and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

Set your heart to meet- Living Christ in His Word.

God wants to give you a deeper revelation of ...

-His love for you, His goodness, His mercy

-what He has done for you through His blood

-who you are in Christ

Turn the Word of God into prayers/decrees until you encounter the Living Christ.

A man brought his demon possessed son to

Jesus and asked Jesus for help ...

**Mark 9:23–24 (NASB95)**

**23** ... “All things are possible to him who believes.”

**24** Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, “I do believe; help my unbelief.”

May that be the earnest cry of our hearts.

Turn away from anything that would plant doubt or unbelief in your heart.

## **Ministry**

If you are here this morning and would like a greater revelation of

>Jesus the Christ

>His love, goodness, mercy

The ministry team will be up front to pray w/you.

Not a counseling time- I want- ministry team to ...

>declare God’s favor over you and to

Untitled, 3/22/24

>ask God to reveal Himself to you in a  
greater measure