

WHO IS JESUS, REALLY? | When Directions Aren't Enough

Discussion Guide

The Christian life is not about rules and head knowledge. It's not the whats, hows, or even whys, but about Who we have deep relationship with. If we want to know the way in which God has called us to live, if we want to know what God is really like, and if we want to know if His word is trustworthy, we need only to look at Jesus, because it is in Jesus that we can know God. Instead of trusting in rules which place control in our own hands, we can instead find our peace in deep relationship with God, and He will be faithful to lead us in His ways.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you ever wish that you knew exactly what God plans for you to do, when and how?
2. How do you imagine God?
3. Does your mental image of God line up with the reality revealed to us in Jesus?
4. Can you let go of needing a "map" and trust that Jesus will lead you?
5. Where is your heart when you pray?

WEEKLY PRACTICE:

Read John 14 slowly, name one place where your heart feels troubled, pray "Holy Spirit, recenter my heart," and take one faithful step.

Sermon Notes

John 14:1-11, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves...."

John 14:15-18, "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

John 14:22-27, "Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, 'But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?' Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of

everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid...”

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust God. Trust Me.”

A troubled heart is only reoriented to peace by the presence of Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Is my life arranged around Jesus?

Thomas asks, “How can we know the way?” Jesus answers, “I am the Way.”

Philip says, “Show us God.” Jesus says, “You have been looking at Him.”

Judas asks, “Where is Your kingdom?” Jesus says, “My Spirit is making you into My dwelling place.”

Jesus is the Father’s love made visible.

Am I willing to let Jesus inform the truth?

Jesus knew we would need help. It’s never our job to do God’s part.

We do not need only more information. We need the Spirit of God.

And when we orient our lives around who Jesus is, we turn from our own way [and] we are filled with His Spirit.

Christianity is not our attempt to imitate an absent teacher. It is the living presence of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, forming His life within and among His people.

Reorientations for a troubled heart:

From control to trust.

From the God we imagine to the God Jesus reveals.

From spectacle to presence.

John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.”

The presence of Jesus reorients a troubled heart toward peace.