

Issues and Answers in Jesus' Day – Chapter 1

- A. Napoleon: Jesus founds an empire based on love.
- B. Who is Jesus?
 - 1. Are you the Messiah? Matt. 11:3, 4-6
 - a. Luke 7:22-23
 - b. Is. 8:13-15
 - 1. Jesus is a rock to stumble over.
 - 2. Who can forgive sins? Mark 2:7
 - a. Job 34:12-15
 - 1. God gave it to himself.
- C. Who do you say that I Am?
 - 1. Matt. 16:13-17
 - a. Just another man?
 - b. Something greater than Man is here.
 - 1. 14 different pagan temples near where they were.
- D. A changed life: II Cor. 5:17
 - 1. Luke 19:1-10
 - 2. Jesus seeks to save that which was lost

Week 2: What Then Shall I Do With Jesus?

I. Jesus On Trial

A. The book looks at 6 trials. But it also gives us 4 perspectives from which to see the trials

1. We can be impressed with the person but remain unresponsive
2. We can listen to the opinions of others and reject Him.
 3. We can follow the counsel of someone else's superstition or fear.
 4. We can make up our own self-appointed ritual to try to wash our hands of any responsibility in making a decision.

B. The Trial: Mark. 14:53-65

1. Jesus taken to Caiaphus, Peter follows
2. Witnesses testify, by their testimony must agree.
- a. Deut. 19:15-19 testimony of witnesses must agree.
 3. Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man (vs. 62). Accused of blasphemy by Caiaphus (63-64).
 - a. Lev. 24:16
 - b. Interpreter's Bible: The whole ceremony is purgative, not judicial, i.e., the thought underlying it is not the fitting of the penalty to the crime, but the removal, as it were, of a spot of infection from the community. Disaster must descend upon the land where the Name is cursed, the lordship of the living God repudiated, no matter whether the offender is a native Israelite or a resident alien.
 5. The problem is that they can't stone Jesus under Roman law
 - a. John 18:28-32. Take Jesus before Pilate, "we can't put him to death so you have to."

C. Jesus before Pilate: John 18:33-38

1. Pilate asks: What is Truth.

II. Can You Handle the Truth?

A. We can be impressed with the person but remain unresponsive

1. Herod wants to meet with Jesus (Luke 23:1-12)
 - a. Herod's been wanting to do this for a long time (Luke 9:7-9)
 - b. What Herod really wants is the sport of listening to and rejecting Him.

B. We can listen to the opinions of others and reject Him.

1. Caiaphus wants to conspire to get rid of Jesus (John 11:47-53)
 - a. Caiaphus had said that it was expedient for one man to die so that the nation would be saved (John 11:50).
 - b. Worried about holding on to power, but used the blasphemy charge to get rid of Jesus. Hides his real intent.

C. We can follow the counsel of someone else's superstition or fear.

(Math. 27:11-26)

1. Pilate doesn't see anything wrong with Jesus
2. His wife has a dream – don't harm him
3. But if he doesn't execute Jesus, he'll have a riot on his hands.
4. He washes his hands and does as the people desire.

D. We can make up our own self-appointed ritual to try to wash our hands of any responsibility in making a decision. Peter's denial (Mark 14:53-54, 66-72)

1. Peter is surrounded by the enemy.
2. He's separated from Jesus
3. Left to his own resources, he fails.
4. Later, he is restored (John 21:15-17).

III. What Shall I Do With Jesus?

A. Isaiah: 53:4-12

1. All of us like sheep have gone astray.
2. Had we been in Peter's shoes, what would we have done?
3. Jesus restored Peter.
4. He will restore you and me.

IV. Who in your life has helped you to see who Jesus is – that he is the lamb that takes away the sins of the world – your sins, my sins?

V. Praise God for that person or persons.

VI. How are you helping others today to see who Jesus is?

Did No One Condemn You?

I. The Good Samaritan

A. Who Is My Neighbor

B. In Luke 10:25-37, the Parable of the Good Samaritan unfolds with a lawyer asking Jesus, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus responds, not with an answer, but with this question: “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?”

1. Why did Jesus ask it?

- a. The lawyer gives the exact same answer Jesus gave to the question of the greatest commandment posed by a lawyer in Matthew 22:36.
- b. According to the law, one would be made ceremonially unclean for seven days if one touched a dead person (Numbers 19:11-13).
- c. A priest was prohibited from touching a dead person unless he was a blood relative of the deceased (Leviticus 21:1-2).

2. But the Samaritan “felt compassion” on the injured man (vs. 33)

- a. Jesus feels compassion

II. The prostitute and Casting Stones

A. John 8:3-6 The woman

1. Lev. 20:10 The law

2. Jesus does not condemn.

3. Deliverance from condemnation begins with compassion.

a. Quote, p. 33

b. Three principles

1. Confronting wrong calls for understanding & compassion
2. Condemning wrong requires humility & grace
3. Correcting wrong begins with forgiveness & hope

B. John 1:17 Grace & truth realized through Jesus Christ

1. Ps. 103:8-14 God is compassionate

2. Jer. 31:33-34 God will remember our sins no more.

God FORGETS your sins IF:

1 John 1:9

C. When Jesus died on a cross, He died for the forgiveness of ALL sins

1. He died for my sins before I'd committed them.
2. What does that mean to you?

Who is Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?

I. First Cor. 8:1 – 3. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

- A. 2 Tim. 3:1-4 Emphasis on reckless, conceited, arrogant.
- B. Prov. 26:16-17 It is the eyes of a child that captures the Lord's heart – not the eyes of conceit.
- C. Human culture promotes arrogance in order to get ahead.

II. Greatness in the Kingdom

- A. Mark 9:33-40
 - 1. Who is greatest?
 - 2. Who is exclusive?
- B. In the world's eyes' we're great if we hold a high position of rank or authority.
 - 1. I. Tim 3:1, 5-6 Don't let a new convert become a Deacon
 - 2. Math. 20:20-21. The mother of sons of Zebedee: make the be on His right and left.
- C. In the world's eyes, we are great if we have abundance of knowledge and can out think others.
 - 1. I Tim 6:3-5. If preach a different doctrine, they're conceited.
 - 2. I Tim 6:6-7, want to be teachers of the law but understand nothing.
- D. In the world's eyes, we are great if we are rich and indulge in an extravagant lifestyle.
 - 1. I. Tim. 6:9-10 & 17 Do not yearn for what you cannot have.

III. Humble ourselves and become like the “Least of These”

- A. Math 18:1-6 Let the little children come to me.
 - 1. Math. 25:40. To the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of these, you did it unto Me.
 - 2. If you treat them well – it will go well for you.
 - 3. But do not cause them to stumble.
- B. James 3:1 which states: “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.” Why would the Spirit of God inspire James to write these words?
- C. James 3:1 which states: “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.” Spiritual leaders have it within their power to either help their flocks to:
 - 1. Abide in God's word, so that they become disciples of Jesus, and as a consequence of abiding in His word, know the truth, and thereby be set free (see John 8:31-32), or
 - 2. Lead them captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ (See Colossians 2:8).

Why Are You So Timid?

I. Seeding the Word

A. Mark 4:1-12

1. Jesus tells the parable of the Sower
2. **In this part of the parable, what is Jesus emphasizing?**

B. Mark 4:13-25 The different types of soil

1. Soil beside the road
2. Rocky soil
3. Soil with thorns
4. Good Soil
5. **In each of these for examples, what is Jesus emphasizing?**

C. Mark 4: 26-29 The Parable of the Seed

1. See especially vs. 27.
2. **In this parable, what is Jesus emphasizing?**

D. Mark 4:30-34 The parable of the Mustard Seed.

1. It is sown in the soil
2. It starts out small, but grows large.
3. **In this parable, what is Jesus emphasizing?**

II. Ernest Hemingway: Trials reveal character, they do not test character. (see p. 44)

- A. Stories from other Bible characters?
- B. Stories from your experience?

III. Jesus Stills the Water

A. They have spent the day in being taught (see the above parables.

B. What are the circumstances of Mark 4:35-40?

1. Evening, going to other side, Jesus is asleep.
2. Something comes up that the disciples can't handle.
3. Jesus says: Why are you so afraid/cowardly/timid?

C. In the context of the situation, how might we interpret this question?

1. See Swindoll's lessons, p. 47

D. In the context of the day's teachings, how might we interpret this question?

What Is Your Name?

I. What symbolizes evil in our culture today? How do we recognize evil?

- A. In Bible times, the sea was a symbol of evil.
- B. The Lake is equated with the Abyss.
1. See Luke 8:30-33.
 2. Ps. 104:5-9. Only God controls the waters.
 3. Rev. 9:1 The Greek word for “abyss” means bottomless or very deep, and is a translation of the Hebrew word for the primeval deep. 7 of the 8 references to the abyss in the NT are in the book of Revelation. The other is in Luke.
- C. Mark 4:35-41. Jesus is asleep, they wake him, afraid for their lives. Vs. 41, “Who is this that even the wind and the sea obey him.)
1. Recap of last week’s lesson
- D. Mark 5:1-13 arrive in the land of the Gerasenes. (5:1-13)
1. Immediately, the demoniac comes and implores Jesus not to torment him. Pigs go into the sea. Jesus had been commanding the demon to come out.
 2. The herdsmen run away, when they come back, ask Jesus to leave 5:-17
 3. The Demoniac wants to with them. Jesus says tell all, so he goes into the Decapolis. 5:18-20
- E. Josh. 3:10 Lists the 7 Canaanite nations (pagan) that Joshua drove out. This is where tradition had that they went.
- F. Jesus feeds the 5,000 (Mark 6:37-44), and has 12 baskets full.
1. Has his disciples get in the boat and row. Spend all night, Jesus walks on water to them. They aren’t getting it (Mark 6:45-52) HADN’T GAINED ANY INSIGHT FROM THE FEEDING OF THE 5,000 (12 baskets full) so go to Gennesaret.
 2. This is N. Western side, where religious Jews are. The point: God’s blessings have been pored out in abundance to the 12 tribes of Israel. They get to hear, but don’t believe.
- F. Back to our friend the former demoniac. Mark 7:31, 8:1 Math. 15:29-37
1. Great multitude comes to him, bringing sick
 2. When they are all done, have 7 baskets full. Represents the 7 Canaanite tribes.
 3. Where did these people come from if they are from a Pagan Culture that knows little, if anything, of Jesus?
Ans.: The testimony of the demoniac.
4. We are like the Jews of Jesus’ day. God has given us an overflowing abundance. We take it for granted. We don’t gain insight, our hearts are hardened. Jesus is saying there’s a world out there that wants to hear the good news. We’re afraid, we have to cross the abyss. But if we will trust him, pass through the storms, there are those who will grasp what we have to give them and multiply it 1,000 fold.

What Do You See?

I. John the Baptist's Disciples come to ask "Are you the Messiah?"

A. Math. 11:1-6

B. John is in prison

1. Is there hope for me?
2. Jesus combines several passages from Isaiah

C. Isaiah Passages

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Blind receive sight. Is. 35:3-6 | 4. Deaf hear Is. 29:18-19 |
| 2. Lame walk | 5. Dead are raised |
| 3. Lepers are cleansed | 6. Poor have gospel preached to them. |

D. Don't stumble over me. (Is. 8:13-18)

1. These are the things Messiah came to do.
2. Listed in ASCENDING order of priority. Most important is preach the gospel.
 - a. God has given these people for miracles which so Jesus can display the Glory of God. More important than signs, though, is that the Gospel is preached.
 - b. Why? Because we are destined for eternity – not just a brief life now.

II. The disciples set sail again.

A. Mark 8:10-13. Just came back from the East side. Land at Magdala/Dalmanutha, and the Pharisees want a demonstration of his power.

- i. Where's he just been (doing signs among the Pagans.)
- ii. Jesus sighs deeply (I should have stopped when I created the Alutions of Zeta Tau!)
- iii. Get back in the boat, sail toward the Eastern Shore.

B. Mark 8:14-21 Do you not understand? We keep doing this, but you don't get it. "If Jesus had to meet hostility from the outside world, he had at least as serious a problem presented by the stupidity of his own followers."

C. See John 3:9-12 and Nic O Demus, Ezek. 12:2

- i. Out of rebellion, we fail to see clearly.

III. The blind man who needs two touches to be healed.

A. Mark. 8:22-26 This is the only time Jesus touches more than once to heal.

B. People who do not allow Jesus to restore their full sight are left half blind.

C. Do you ever allow others to distract you from your purpose and have nothing to show as a result?

- i. Remember, we've been talking about sowing, reaping, trusting God to reap the harvest.

D. Priority: Fact or condition of being prior. Given pre-eminence.

E. How do we spend our time, how do we spend our money, what do we think about?

- i. I Tim. 6:6-11 What are your priorities?

What Do I Have to Do With You?

I. Jesus is Born

- A. Mary is visited by an angel. Luke 1:30-33, 2:7, 16-19 Announces His coming and His birth. Mary treasures all these things in her heart.
- B. Luke 2:39-40. They return to their home in Nazareth
- C. What's it like to give birth to a child and see him/her grow in the first few months of life?

II. Jesus Comes of Age

- A. Go to Jerusalem, Jesus lingers to discuss the Law: Luke 2:41-52
- B. Mary says to Jesus: You worried us sick! What have you been up to?
 - D. Jesus recognizes the difference between His Father (vs. 49) and his earthly father (vs. 48). It is at this point that Jesus makes a distinction between earthly and heavenly father.
 - i. Jesus has a sense of his purpose in life.
 - ii. How have your children/how have you acquired this sense of purpose?
 - iii. Note that there were many apocryphal books written about the childhood of Jesus, but they don't make it into the Bible. Jesus is shown in Luke as being God, but also being under earthly authority.
 - E. He continues in subjection to them. Vs. 51
 - F. He kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Vs. 52.
- C. Psalm 127:3-5
 - 1. The making of straight arrows. We prepare them for flight.
 - 2. Children are a gift, not a possession.
 - 3. How have you prepared your children for "release" into the world?
 - a. How did your parents prepare you for entry into the World?

III. God Anoints Jesus with His Spirit

- A. Gen. 1:2 and Deut. 32:11
- B. The Creating Spirit of God hovers over the earth.
 - 1. A mother eagle hovers over her chicks to "stir up" the nest.
- C. Psalm 104:24-30. Note, prayer to the Holy Spirit.
 - i. How does God's Spirit descend on/anoint Jesus? How is the legacy of a family passed on to our children?
- D. The Spirit of God descends on Jesus "You are my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."
 - i. What is the role of a father in the life of his children?
 - ii. How does that role change over time?
- E. Jesus turns the water into wine (John 2:1-8). "What do I have to do with us?"
 - i. Jesus cuts the ties to Mom and sets off on his own path.
 - ii. How does a mother's role change over time?

IV. Lessons for Letting Your Children Go (p. 72-73). Personal application?

Why Are You Reasoning In You Hearts

I. Who's Rules Will We Follow – God's or Ours?

A. Mark 7:5-8

1. You put aside God's commands and make up your own.
2. We want to be in charge – Barna Survey table 5.1

B. Mark 7:14-23

1. What comes out of our hearts defiles us.
2. Guard your heart, watch your attitude

II. The paralytic Mark 2:1-12

A. As you read, what are the attitudes of:

1. The Paralytic and his friends
2. The Pharisees
3. The people

B. Disease is due to your sins.

1. Is. 48:9-11 Suffering is so God can be glorified How do you feel about that?
2. Who has authority to forgive sins?
 - a. Job 34:13 God has authority
 - b. Is. 22:20-23 The son of David is given authority
 - c. Is. 43:25 I wipe out your sins and remember them no more.
3. The Pharisees see that if $A=B$ and $B=C$ then A must = C . They must deny the premise
 - a. If they don't deny the premise, they MUST accept Jesus as Messiah.

III. Attitude of Christ

A. Phil. 2:3-8

1. He became a servant. We claim Christ, but our struggle is to submit.

B. Prov. 23:7 The story of Josh McDowell. All it takes for evil to triumph in the world is for good men to do nothing. Assumes three things:

1. Evil and good both exist
2. There's an on going battle between the two
3. You and I, by our actions or inactions, are on 1 side or the other.

C. What is your attitude?

The Cup Which The Father Has Given – Shall I Not Drink It?

I. The Service of a Disciple: Luke 9:23

- A. Our faith is based on another's sacrifice. Our decision to be a disciple is based on our choice to sacrifice.
- B. The requirements of discipleship:
 - a. Deny self
 - b. Take up cross daily
 - c. "Follow Me." How do you follow?
- C. Quote p. 101-102 The blood of lambs in the Kidron Valley
 - a. Christ asks that the cup be taken from him. Math. 26:36-44
 - b. When have you asked that the cup be taken from you?

II The Commitment of a Disciple.

- A. John 18: 1-3 Judas shows up.
- B. 18:4-9 Jesus doesn't resist. Why?
- C. 18:10-11 Peter does resist, tries to stop the guy, Jesus says "I'll take the cup."
 - a. Jesus is committed to doing His father's will. **Peter is not.**
- D. Lamentations 3:1-38
 - a. 3:1-18 The lament. "I'm toast."
 - b. 3:19-21 Ask the Lord: Surely, I have hope?
 - c. 3:22-26 Wait silently for the Lord
 - d. 3:27-31 The Lord won't reject forever – vs. 30 – give selves over to being slapped
 - e. Is. 50:47- I'll bear the blows, I won't be ashamed.

What is That To You?

I. Why Worry about Sticking Your Nose Into Other's Business? Math. 7:3-4

- A. A lesson for all of us (p. 89) We will all become like Christ, but not the same way.
- B. What about this man? John 21:20-21 A.B. Bruce's comment, p. 88
 - 1. Don't be a busybody
 - 2. See I Peter 4:12-19, exp. Vs. 15 Note the change in perspective.
 - a. Fiery ordeal, if you share Christ's suffering, keep on rejoicing
 - b. If you're rebuked for name of Christ, rejoice
 - c. Judgment will start with us 1st to purify His people.
 - 3. The change comes because Peter takes seriously Christ's command to follow Him.

II. Jesus Calls Us To Follow.

- A. Another of Jesus' disciples told to "Follow Me" Math. 8:21-27
- B. Got in the boat, calmed the sea – what kind of a guy is this?
 - 1. Where do we have to follow him to?
 - 2. Peter follows, is martyred
 - i. Read Book of Martyrs, p. 12 (Peter's death).
- C. I Kings 19:16-21 Elisha told to follow Elijah. What does vs. 20 mean?
 - 1. Luke 9:61-62
 - 2. Follow without reservation.
- D. What do non-Christians want to see in Christians? Barna study, p. 114 (helping the poor)
- E. Phil. 2:1-5 Be concerned for others.
 - i. How have we failed to follow Christ? Opportunity to serve, Roberts Park U. UMC, 401 N. Delaware, June 25, Aug. 13, Oct. 22, or Dec. 10.

Do You Know What I Have Done To You?

I. The Wedding Pledge Luke 22:14 -23

- A. Jesus creates a wedding ceremony.
- B. Rev. 19:7 – 10
 - 1. Are we fellow servants?

C. The disciples argue Luke 22:24

II. Jesus' Model: Being a servant

A. John 13:1-5

- 1. Jesus washes their feet. Why?
- 2. How do we miss opportunities to serve?

B. John 13:6-9

- 1. How do we, like Peter, let pride get in the way of serving?
- 2. A Story from "The Body" by Chuck Colson

C. John 13: 10-12. Do you know what I have done to you?

- 1. What are the reasons Jesus would wash their feet?
- 2. What are the implications?
- 3. How do we wash people's feet?

D. John 13:13-17

- 1. Jesus sets an example for us
- 2. Humility is revealed by acknowledging the greatness of another.
 - a. Remember the Angel in Rev. 19:10. "Do not do that to me. Worship God."
 - b. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

III. Are we willing?

A. Math. 11:28-29

B. Jer. 6:16.

C. What is quoted out of this by Jesus?

- 1. By quoting Jeremiah, what is He saying to us today?

Shall Not God Bring About Justice?

I. Some Definitions:

- A. Justice: Right being rewarded; Wrong being punished.
- B. Parable: Placing something familiar beside something unfamiliar to teach something new.

II. How to pray without losing heart.

- A. Luke 17:22-37. The last days will be filled with trials.
 - 1. These trials will require persistent faith.
 - 2. What do you fear?
- B. Luke 18:1 A parable to learn how they ought to pray.
 - 1. When we see injustice, what is our natural reaction?
 - 2. The judge relents due to the importuning of a persistent woman. (18:2-5)

<u>Woman</u>	<u>Judge</u>	<u>Lesson (6-8)</u>
Helpless	Powerful	God will bring justice quickly for his elect.
Courageous	Lacks integrity	
Needs justice	Has power	
Persistent	Must put up with her	But when Jesus comes, will
At his mercy	Finally says yes to get sleep	He find any faithful left?

- C. Will we be persistent in our faith? P. 127: Prayer in the face of injustice.

III. A king who prayed in righteousness and was answered.

- A. King Hezekiah Isaiah 38:1-8
 - 1. The key is Hezekiah's attitude toward God (vs. 3).
- B. Near death, God gives him 15 more years and turns the sun back.
 - 1. Is it likely Hezekiah would have remained faithful no matter what?

IV. Some questions:

- A. What do you pray about?
- B. When do you remain still and wait for God?
- C. How can we put faith to action?
- D. How do you view the balance between faith and action?
- E. Shouldn't the woman have waited for God to act? Was she taking things into her own hands?
- F. Read Luke 17:31. Do you have times in your life when God is prompting you to make an immediate decision and act NOW?

Why Do You Stand Looking Into the Sky?

I. Acts. 1:1-2

- A. Luke writes to Theophilus. In Luke 1:3, calls him “Most Excellent”
 - 1. Paul uses such appellation when addressing Felix (Acts 24:3)
 - a. The term implies he is an important official.
 - b. Acts is written in Rome, so it’s likely a Roman official
 - 2. Purpose of Acts:
 - a. Present history of Christianity
 - b. Give a defense for Paul (Paul awaits trial)
 - c. Provide a guide for how to run the Church
 - d. Depict the triumph of Christianity: Doesn’t mention Paul’s trial, the burning of Roman, the sack of Jerusalem: Possibly written before 64 AD
- B. Vs. 2: Gave orders via the Holy Spirit
 - 1. What the disciples did wasn’t through their power, but the H.S. P. 133 of book.

II. Acts 1:3-5

- A. Wait for Holy Spirit. Lesson: We can’t act in our own power. GET OUT OF THE WAY
- B. Contrast to Political Revolutions we see: Style over substance
 - 1. Only the revolution Jesus brought has lasted down through the ages.
 - 2. Colson: In the Kingdom of Man, use programs to change people. In the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, changed hearts lead to people changing culture.

III. Acts 1:6-8 You shall be My witnesses

- A. Disciples don’t get it – vs. 6
- B. See Is. 43:8-12. You are My witnesses. Set in a court of Law. Speak truth in the court of Culture.
 - 1. Christ’s message is for the world – not a treasure to be hoarded.
 - 2. We live in a post-Christian culture.
 - 3. How have we failed to pass the torch? P. 137 of book.**
- C. Example of a witness: Mark 14:51-52. Mark goes on to write the 1st Gospel, maybe as early as 50 B.C. Uses the word “Immediately” a lot.
 - 1. Don’t spend time looking up into the sky. Get busy!**
- D. Christ’s message in Acts 1:8:
 - 1. Start Local
 - 2. Go Global

IV. How Are You A Witness?