

Talk It Over

King Jesus (Week 1) Not A Fuzzy Jesus

SMALL TALK

1. If you had not been primed by this series or title, when you think of the word King, what comes to mind?
2. When you think about Jesus, what comes to mind? What short answer (one word if possible) would you use to answer the question "Who is he?"

Possibilities: hoax, myth, mystery, Prophet, Priest, King, God, Savior, Lord, Teacher, Messiah, Christ, Babe, Christmas, Easter, Church, Religion, Christianity, ...

VIEWPOINT

3. **READ Genesis 1:26, 28.** When God made humans he made them to "rule" over the rest of creation, under God as sovereign ruler. What went wrong and what did God do about it?
4. **READ these and make short observations about each:** Genesis 3:15; 17:6; 35:11; 2 Samuel 7:7-14; Psalm 2:6; 110:1-2; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14; Luke 1:32-33; Mark 1:15; John 12:13; Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 1:20-22; Revelation 19:16.

GETTING PERSONAL

5. What fuzzy ideas did the disciples have about Jesus before the resurrection? What fuzzy ideas about Jesus have you had before? What were some clarifying moments for you?
6. Why do you think so many people do not think about Jesus as King, even though the bulk of his teaching was about his Kingdom?
7. Are you all out of sorts? In what way? How does knowing King Jesus help?
8. What are the characteristics of a cruise ship and the attitudes of the passengers? How are the characteristics and attitudes different on a rescue ship? Which ship is our church?

MAKING PROGRESS

9. One of our core statements is: "Followers say, 'Follow me.'" Name one "upside

down" person you praying for? And how do they currently view Jesus?

October 4, 2020

King Jesus

1-Not A Fuzzy Jesus

I know what's wrong with America right now. We're all out of sorts, and there's no place to go to get more sorts!

--Sam Shires

Are you all out of sorts? You've come to the right place if you are because Jesus is really good at helping people who are out of sorts.

Today we start a new series: King Jesus! This is good news! I say it's good news, and yet, in our culture of independence and democracy we tend to be resistant to the very concept of having a King. We want independence and democracy. That makes a lot of sense given our history. But let's consider a Kingdom that is not of this world. What if there is such a kingdom as Jesus talked about, and there really is a truly good king who is good all the time and whose kingdom is a blessing to all his subjects. Wouldn't you want to be in that kingdom? If your King is Jesus you are already getting a taste of that Kingdom.

In Matthew 16, Jesus asked his disciples "Who do you say that I am?" That's a really good question everyone needs a good answer for even today for us! Peter gave the answer "*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*" Christ affirmed his correct answer. He's the long awaited coming King, the Christ, the Messiah, (the Spirit Anointed one to reign forever) as prophesied in the Old Testament! Even though Peter answered correctly, the King was full of surprises. He wasn't the kind of King they expected. Here is one example

Mark 4:41 (NIV) They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

There are many blurry and fuzzy answers people believe about Jesus today. We need a clear answer to the question “*Who is this?...*” not a fuzzy one.

1. NOT a PART-TIME Jesus

Jesus is not a part time King. He is not just the Holiday Jesus. He’s not merely a sentimental symbolic Jesus. Ahhh! Like the babe in the manger, symbol for peace on earth good will toward men”. Neither is he the Easter Jesus. As if the Empty cross, empty tomb is merely symbolic for Hope. He is not merely a SUNDAY Jesus either. He is the actual risen and full time forever King.

WARNING: A part-time approach to Jesus, is revolting to Him!

Revelation 3:15-16 (NIV) {15} I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! {16} So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

He’s not a part-time Jesus!

2. NOT a FIRE INSURANCE Jesus

“As long as I believe in Jesus, I’ll go to heaven when I die!”

There is a truth there, but does it tell the whole story about his kingdom? No.

Jesus mission is bigger than simply *getting us into* the kingdom of heaven when we die; it’s about the kingdom of heaven *getting into us* here and now.

2 very different styles of recruitment contrasted



Beginning at WWI 'Uncle Sam' pointed an accusing finger of moral responsibility in a



recruitment **poster** in order to recruit for the war effort.

King Jesus wants you, but his approach is so different from Uncle Sam. There is no accusing pointed finger. He demonstrates his love first, then he invites you. What he wants is for you to want him as your King. If you do, he will reign over you, in you, and through you! This is a different kind of Kingdom.

So, this isn't merely fire insurance purchased in a one time faith transaction so that we can get into heaven and avoid the fires of hell. The Kingdom of Jesus has already begun when we say yes to him as our Savior and Lord, or King. He is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords.

Your birth story is not your best story. Jesus is calling you to a life story of faith. The faith Jesus calls you to is an ongoing trust and allegiance to Him, His Kingdom, and His Mission!

Luke 9:23 (NIV) Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

He's not a PART-TIME Jesus!

He's NOT a FIRE INSURANCE Jesus

3. NOT the TRADITIONALIST's Jesus

Luke 5: 39 (NIV) And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.' "

A traditionalist says, "The Old is Better." Jesus had to square off with the traditionalists of his day. So, let's take a look at Jesus' whole quote.

Luke 5:37–39 (NIV) And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is

better.’ ”

Jesus came to bring something new and better, the New Covenant. The old was good, but he came to give us something better. Jesus squared off with those who refused what was better, preferring their traditions instead.

Even today, traditionalists get used to their traditions, and sometimes they fight changes they should not fight.

CRUISE SHIP or RESCUE SHIP

Traditionalists prefer cruise ships. They don't like someone rocking their boat. Cruise ship passengers fuss over the menu of their meals, and other preferences. They look at their entertainment options, and consider how they are being fed. On a rescue ship there are no passengers just crew members who have a job to do, and rescued people being attended to. Crew members obey orders and take great risks in the middle of a storm.

We still have cruise ship passengers arguing over pews, choirs, organs, old hymns vs. chairs/ bands/ guitars/ new songs. But what they are confused about is WHY they are on the boat. They have lost sight of their mission.

Don't confuse the **temporary changing methodology** with the **timeless unchanging mission and message**. Methodologies change while the rescuing mission and message remains the same.

He's not a PART-TIME Jesus!

He's NOT a FIRE INSURANCE Jesus

He's NOT the TRADITIONALIST'S Jesus

4. NOT the NEW AGE Jesus

*2 Timothy 4:3 (NIV) For the time will come when people will not put up with **sound doctrine**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of*

teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

The New Age version abandons sound doctrine, wants spirituality without substance. The New Age version of Jesus does not actually include the teachings of Jesus. There is so much he says that they don't like. The New Age version of Jesus fits with their vague and fuzzy "spirituality," a feel good "spiritual experience" The New Age version doesn't really believe in the idea of sin, the very thing Jesus came to do something about once and for all by his death, burial, and resurrection. Don't fall for a New Age Jesus

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NIV) {13} For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. {14} And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. {15} It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

5. NOT the PROTEST Jesus

It is true that Jesus came to change the world. But we need to make sure we don't have a fuzzy idea of what that means. He came and started a revolution, a movement that has done amazing things. But let us not be confused! His revolution was not a power movement, at least not in the worldly sense, with worldly methods. It was a movement of loving, serving, humility, and relying on the power of prayer, not the weapons of this world.

Jesus made no move to protest the Roman Government and it had plenty of injustices. When we are following Jesus it is **not a revolution of rants, and shouts, and screaming protests, and social media posts and feeds.**

It is a movement that begins inside a heart and changes people one by one, but soon this has a powerful effect on culture.

Do you remember the children's toy that came out in the 70s called WEEBLES. WEEBLES WOBBLE BUT THEY DON'T FALL DOWN.

In his Kingdom, WEEBLES WOBBLE BUT THEY DON'T FALL DOWN.

In the Kingdom of DARKNESS, WEEBLES WOBBLE but upside down, and they never fall UP. With Jesus' movement something shifts inside the WEEBLES heart, and the wobble gets reversed and we become oriented right side up! To the upside down WEEBLES it looks like a hostile revolution of change. They don't like it.

Acts 17:6 (CSB) ... "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here too..."

To upside down people, right side up looks upside down! Let's celebrate the life changing resurrection power of King Jesus reigning in us, and through us which is turning our world right side up one person at a time.

I'm a WEEBLE and I still wobble, but I'm never again upside down. Someday, when I see my King face to face, and I will no longer even wobble. I will be unwaveringly oriented to my King, and enjoying every minute forever. Are you an upside down WEEBLE? Let Jesus shift things inside of you.