

Luke

See Jesus

The Real King Jesus

Luke 9:7-17; John 6:14-15, 22ff

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Oct. 10, 2021

Very few people are opposed to any concept of Jesus. They'd just like to use their own notion of Jesus to accomplish what they want to see done in their own lives and in this world.

The existence of Jesus is rarely debated. It's the person, place, and power of Jesus that are surrounded with confusion. Human agendas, personal opinions and selfish desires all crowd out the clear testimony of who He is and what He came to do.

I. You Might Be Confused about Who Jesus Really Is

Luke 9:7 “Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed...”

The Greek word for “perplexed” here means to be confused to the point of despair. Just like today, people were promoting radically different opinions about who He really was.

II. Your Confusion about Him Doesn't Wipe Out His Compassion for You

Even before you get it right—as to who He is—He cares for you and is providing for you in ways you probably don't even recognize or express gratitude for.

Luke 9:17 “And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.”

Even when Jesus was physically and emotionally exhausted and seeking rest, He responds to the crowd with compassion:

Mark 6:34 “When He went ashore He saw a great crowd, and He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And He began to teach them many things.”

Despite the fact that He knew thousands of them were simply thrill-seekers, chasing after Him for all the wrong reasons, He still fed them and took care of them. He met a real need regardless of what they believed about Him.

III. Jesus Never Gives in to Our Short-Sighted Desires

Human beings do not mind having a king to rule over them as long as they can take him by force and tell him what to do with his power and authority.

John 6:14-15 “When the people saw the sign that He had done, they said, ‘This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!’¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by Himself.”

People can have great enthusiasm for Jesus, but for all the wrong reasons. Jesus refuses to let us pigeonhole Him and make His mission synonymous with our personal agendas.

John 6:26 "...Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves."

Jesus came to rescue us from the earthly cravings that drive us toward insanity and leave us so unsatisfied again and again. He came to awaken a longing that is so real that it trumps the immediate craving for the things of this world.

The best way to know if your dream or wish-list is simply an earthly craving disguised as a godly desire, is to consider how you would react if it crumbles before your very eyes.

IV. Jesus Came to Give Us What We Really Need – Not What We’re Constantly Craving

John 6:35 "...I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."

The things of this world leave you hungry no matter how many times you scoot up to the buffet of all that it has to offer!

One Greek word for "life" is the word "bios" that refers to physical life or simply existence. The other Greek word for "life" is the word "zoe" that refers not only to existence, but to a quality of life.

When you come to faith in Christ, you discover the difference between simply existing and really living. It has nothing to do with how much stuff you have piled up around you or how much of what the world calls the "good life" you're able to enjoy.

"Most people, if they really learn how to look in to their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. There are all sorts of things in this world that offer to give it to you, but they never keep their promise. The longings which arise in us when we first fall in love, or first think of some foreign country, or first take up some subject that excites us, are longings which no marriage, no travel, no learning can really satisfy. I am not speaking of what would ordinarily be called unsuccessful marriage or trips and so on; I am speaking of the best possible ones. There is always something we grasp at in that first moment of longing, that just fades away in the reality. The spouse may be a good spouse, the scenery has been excellent, it has turned out to be a good job, but "It" has evaded us."

~ C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

There's nothing in this world that can give us the "zoe" or quality of life that we're really hungry for and longing for. It's only found in Jesus. It *is* Jesus!

John 6:28-29 "Then they said to Him, 'What must we do, to be doing the works of God?' ²⁹ Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.'"