

THE JESUS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Open: The baby in the manger ... such a sweet story.

- Who is this Jesus? A Mister Rogers of yesteryear ... a nice guy, interesting, teacher; gentle, meek and mild.
- Philip Yancey in his book, "The Jesus I Never Knew," writes: "We have clipped the claws of the Lion of Judah and made him a docile lamb ... a household pet."
- Meet the One who arrived in Bethlehem and traveled to Calvary ... meet Jesus.

(1) He was a man's man.

a) He fought the enemy and won – **Matthew 4** records the event.

- ✓ Like two boxers circling in the ring, Satan went after Jesus.
- ✓ Man had failed the test (the fight) in the beginning of time in the Garden ... what chance did this man have?
- ✓ Not one of the fallen angels of lesser rank but Satan himself ... "undefeated world champion" would face off with the man whom Heaven named Jesus.
- ✓ The tempter knew to target His vulnerable areas ... having fasted for 40 days (weakened by hunger) he said: "Turn these stones into bread." **Vs. 3.**
- ✓ Show your power and jump ... bow down and worship me, and I'll promote you ...
 - Take a shortcut to the top ... skip the cross and wear a crown.
 - I offer you "Messiah status" without suffering.

→ And so the enemy wars with man today ... he knows where you are vulnerable, where you are weak, and he aims his arrows there ... you drop your guard and he lays you flat with an upper cut!

- Jesus took on Satan and won the match.

Matthew 4:10-11 NLT ¹⁰ “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”
¹¹ Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

b) He confronted problems

✓ He didn't stick his head in the sand; He spoke the truth even when it was unpopular.

- He openly rebukes the lead apostle, Peter.

Matthew 16:23-24 NLT ²³ Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.

→ Correction, straightforward talk ... being my follower will be tough ... suck it up!

- The religious leaders tried to intimidate Jesus ... they threatened Him, tried to turn the people against Him.

– He didn't mix words ...

Matthew 23:25-28 NLT ²⁵ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too. ²⁷ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. ²⁸ Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Vs. 33 Snakes, sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?

→ He wasn't being mean or unkind ... He was speaking the truth.

- These people needed to be confronted ... they were comfortable in their complacency.

* I say He was a man's man because:

- a) He fought the enemy and won.
- b) He confronted problems; He didn't cover them up.
- c) He faced the cross with courage.

- Executed on a cross, the pain, the agony ... tortured.
- He does not whine or complain but even as He is nailed to the crossbeam ... He forgives His executors.

→ What I'm telling you He wasn't a wimp! He wasn't some effeminate sissy ... son of a carpenter, a man's man.

(2) He was and is the God man.

- He said Himself: **John 10:30 NLT** The Father and I are One.
- Matthew and Luke tell us of His miraculous birth; John captures it in 2 verses.

John 1:1 NLT In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 NLT So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

→ The Word (God) became flesh (Jesus).

➤ His cousin, John the Baptist, went through a difficult time and in prison he wondered – is this truly the Messiah – our deliverer?

– A couple of John’s followers seek Jesus out and ask Him point blank:

Matthew 11:3-5 NLT ³ “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?” ⁴ Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— **Paraphrase** ⁵ folks have sold their seeing-eye dogs and taken up bird-watching. Some have traded in their wheelchairs for hiking boots. Those who couldn’t hear have purchased cell phones, the down and out have turned into the up and coming, and a lot of deadbeats are living it up for the first time in their lives.

– Jesus’ miracles give evidence He was more than a man.

John 14:11 NLT Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

– When the paralyzed man was healed in **Matthew 9** the religious leaders said: **Matthew 9:3** ... Does He think He is God?

√ They understood the implications of His words.

√ To prove He is God ... forgives the man of his sins and heals him of his paralysis.

– Lazarus was quite a problem for those who were trying to dispel thoughts that Jesus was God.

√ What do you do with a dead man that is alive again?

→ The Creator, Almighty God came to earth in the form of man.

(1) He is a man’s man!

(2) He is the God man!

(3) He is man’s friend.

– He came to rescue us!

- √ Satan seeks to destroy us, sin has separated us, but Jesus has come to redeem us.

Romans 5:6-11 NLT ⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

- Jesus was called a “friend of sinners.”

- √ He did not come to judge you but to love you.

- When on this earth:

- √ Demons recognized Him.

- √ The sick flocked to Him.

- √ His disciples died for Him.

- ? What ought you to do? Run to Him!

- √ You are not in the bargaining position ... your sins have you bound and you're headed to a “devil's hell.”

- God does not offer you a set of rules – He offers you His Son.

- √ You either accept Him or reject Him.

- √ He can either make you a friend of God or you will remain an enemy of God.

– Your eternal future hangs in the balance ...

- Who is this Jesus?

- (1) He is a man's man.

- (2) He is the God man.

- (3) He is man's friend.

* He isn't boring and predictable ... He offers you a life of adventure.
Run to Him!

Message Notes
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