

WHEN JESUS ... Says Follow Me – June 9 – Pastor Peter

hand. Divinity touches dirt.

And there's only one other time in the history of the universe that divinity touches dirt, and that's when a Baby is born in Bethlehem.

Mark 8:31-35 "Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later He would rise from the dead. As He talked about this openly with His disciples, Peter took Him aside and began to reprimand Him for saying such things. Jesus turned around and looked at His disciples, then reprimanded Peter. 'Get away from Me, Satan!' He said. 'You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.' Then, calling the crowd to join His disciples, He said, 'If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it."	2. Jesus became one of us, but did he really experience what we experience as human beings?
1. Followers Put Jesus First	beiligs!
To be a follower, we put Jesus first.	
The answer to putting Jesus first is ultimately based in who Jesus is.	
Jesus Becomes One of Us	
The Book of Genesis records the creation of the universe.	
On day 6, He creates humanity. And He does something on day 6 that He doesn't do on any other day.	3. What was Moses's attitude when he hit the rock instead of following
On days 1-5 it says He speaks, 'Let there be' and it was. But here's what happens on day 6.	God's instructions?
Gen. 2:7 "Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person."	
He bends over and He gets down in the dirt and He makes us by	

John 1:1,14 "In the beginning the Word already existed.The
Word was with God, and the Word was God. 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."

Jesus is God and Jesus becomes one of us. And because He becomes one of us, there's shared experience.

He's the God who's right there with you in the centre of whatever you're facing.

Jesus Dies for Us

The Innocent is judged guilty. The Pure is judged dirty. The Righteous is judged sinful. The Holy is judged unclean.

1 John 4:10 "This is real love - not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."

Jesus dies, so we can know forgiveness. Jesus dies, so we can know just how valuable and precious you are to Him.

In Exodus 3, Moses stumbles upon this bush that's burning but it's not burning up.

God says, 'Moses you're going to appear before the Pharaoh of Egypt and you're going to lead My people out of slavery.'

Moses resists God.

Exodus 4:10 "But Moses pleaded with the Lord, 'O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though You have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled."

Years later the Israelites rebel and complain so Moses strikes the rock and water comes out.

Then the same things happens again and this is what God tells Moses to do the second time.

QUESTIONS:

4. How is Moses's attitude
similar to our attitudes
when facing stressful
situation? Is this the right
approach?

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Num. 20:8 "You and Aaron must take the staff and assemble the entire community. As the people watch, speak to the rock over there, and it will pour out its water. You will provide enough water from the rock to satisfy the whole community and their livestock."

And here's what actually happens.

Num. 20:10,11 "Then he and Aaron summoned the people to come and gather at the rock. 'Listen, you rebels!' he shouted. 'Must we bring you water from this rock?' Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with the staff, and water gushed out. So the entire community and their livestock drank their fill."

Moses' anger and frustration make his insecurity float to the surface.

God says, 'speak to the rock.' Years before Moses says, 'I can't speak very well.'

And with the pressure of his insecurity, he doesn't trust God, he trusts in the staff that he carries in his hand and he strikes the rock instead of speaking to it.

In the face of every doubt and issue and objection God says,

Exodus 3:14 "I am who i am."

What matters, is who God is.

And because Jesus dies for us, here's what the Apostle Paul concludes in a letter he writes from in jail.

Phil. 2:9-11 "Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honourand gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Jesus is Lord

QUESTIONS 1. What does putting Jesus first mean?
2. What can an Idol be? Do you have idols in your life?
3.In Matthew 6:33, Jesus says to seek his kingdom and live righteously, and all our needs will be fulfilled. What does that mean to you?

2. Followers Keep Jesus First	
Follower put Jesus first and followers keep Jesus first.	
Exodus 20:3-5 "You must not have any other god but Me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods."	
People make idols out of lots of things. And it can be a follower of Jesus issue.	
1 John 5:21 "Dear children, keep yourselves from idols."	
So how do followers keep Jesus first?	
Look Inside	
Psalm 139:23,24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart;test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."	
Trust God's Words	
You might not be able to trust everything that people say. But we can trust what God says.	
Matt. 6:33 "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need."	
If we put Jesus first, everything else gets added on.	
Give Him Everything	
And we give Him everything.	
Mark 12:30 "And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."	

He's talking about focus. He's talking about choice. He's talking about priorities.

He's talking about giving everything.

TAKEAWAYS

- 1. **He is who is He is.** God's nature is not determined by us or by our worldview. He is not insecure of who he is because he knows who he is. And he wants us to know that we also are defined by him and not by our doubts. He loves us, he died for us to get us closer to him and experience his love and mercy. He became one of us, understanding our humanly daily needs. He is not a distant God, he is a personal one. That is why you should not doubt of who you are, because God has no doubt of who you are. Let's see through our lives as he sees it, let your view of yourself be his view and your worldview be his view.
- 2. **Putting God is first is intentional**. Putting God first in our lives needs to be intentional and we must continuously examine our hearts to identify any idols. It is not something we can just expect God to do for us. He can examine our hearts and reveal to us what needs to be changed but if we are not intentional in that search, we will never do something about it. Even if God reveals it to us. We must want to put God first in our lives, once we are intentional, we will take steps to make it a reality.

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	HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE?
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