



LET'S GO DEEPER



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

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.’”

1. Followers Put Jesus First

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.

On days 1-5 it says He speaks, ‘Let there be’ and it was. But here’s what happens on day 6.

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 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.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why should we put Jesus first?

2. Jesus became one of us, but did he really experience what we experience as human beings?

3. What was Moses’s attitude when he hit the rock instead of following God’s instructions?



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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 honour and 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?
