

Do You Know My Jesus?

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Lorain Avenue Church of Christ (05-26-2024)

Good morning.

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The title of our lesson this morning is ... "Do You Know My Jesus?"

Title prompted by the Hymn ... of the same title.

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A lot of people say they know Jesus.

Maybe they do! Maybe they don't!

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"Who are you ... to be the Judge, John?"

"Huh?"

"Who are you?"

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Nobody special ... that's for sure.

I just open the Bible and read the Word of God.

And what I read ... and only what I read ... tells me who Jesus is.

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Notice what I said?

Not ... "... tells me who Jesus was" ... or ... "... tells me who Jesus will be ...

But ... the Bible ... "tells me who Jesus IS"

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In Hebrews 13:8 ... we can read ... "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
... Do not be fooled by false teachings."

That's pretty neat. ... and pretty clear.

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Jesus is unchanging ... who He is ... what He stands for ... what He instructs ... what He
requires ... does not change. Not with time. Not with culture.

Jesus' promises never have failed ... and never will fail ... to come true.

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One promise I really like ... is the promise Jesus made ... when He was face to face with His
Disciples ... just a few hours before He was arrested ...

... just a few hours before ... He was dragged through a phony trial ... and then killed by crucifixion ... all for the sins of the world.

... died for my sins ... for your sins ... we all have sinned ... and will sin ... and fall short (Rom 3:23).

My Jesus promised ... in John 14:1-3 ... "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house (in Heaven) ...there are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me, that you also may be where I am.

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He will return ... just as the two Angels promised in Acts 1:9-11 ...

"After Jesus gave His final instructions to His Disciples ... He was taken up right in front of their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking up intently into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men (angels) dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'"

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Jesus promised to return for the faithful one day ... and take them home to Heaven ... to be with the Father forever.

I want to live a faithful life ... so I can be among those going to Heaven when Christ returns.

I want those I love to live a faithful life ... so we can be in Heaven together.

A faithful life ... not as I or any other human may judge ...

... but as God and Jesus judge ... by what they have written in the Bible

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If I were to go and my loved ones could not ... that would be sad beyond words.

If they were to go ... and not me ... also very sad.

If all missed Heaven ... what a tragedy.

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But if we all go ... how joyful that will be.

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This is what my Jesus tells me in the Bible.

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Too many people do not hear their Jesus speak those truths.

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We don't know when Jesus will return.

He's told us to be watchful. He's told us that He does not know when His Father will send Him to bring the world to an end.

Stay on guard. Keep yourself pure and prepared. That's the message. Be ready.

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As a lightning flash is seen in both the east and west skies at the very same instant ... so will Jesus' return be.

Over the years ... people have tried to find some sign of His return ... some way to have advance warning.

Jesus simply says ... "My return will be the sign of my coming."

When the Father tells His Son to return ... Jesus will be here for the faithful ... in a fraction of a heartbeat.

I guess it's like He's saying ... "You'll know as soon as I know."

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We can't be sloppy ... or unmindful ... or unbelieving.

Those attitudes will be useless excuses ... if we're unprepared to meet our God.

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In 1 Cor 15:52 ... we read that Jesus ... "will return in a flash ... in the twinkling of an eye."

Be prepared!

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Jesus is so amazing.

He's amazing because ... when He was on earth ... He was just like you and me.

A human being. Growing from infancy to adulthood.

The same growing pains ... the same ups and downs ... the same need to learn right from wrong when He was young.

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Jesus is so amazing ... because ... at the same time ... He is so different than you and me.

Let me say more about this.

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Jesus has always been.

No matter how far back in time you go ... Jesus has always been.

He has always been with God, His Father.

The Bible says that Jesus, Himself, is God.

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In John 1:1 ... we read ... "In the beginning was Jesus Christ. And Jesus was with God. And Jesus was God. He was in the beginning with God."

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Can't you see why Jesus is so amazing ... at least begin to see?

After being with God, the Father ... for a very long a time ... Jesus (God Himself) ... left Heaven (when the time was right) and came to earth to die ... so He could pay the debt for our sins.

In 1 Pet 1:18-20 ... we read that ... we were NOT redeemed from our sins ... by perishable things ... like silver or gold ... but instead we were redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus ... the Son of God.”

He left Heaven ... and came to earth by taking the form of a man ... the form of a human being. He was ... at the same time ... both God and man.

That’s my Jesus ... the Jesus found on the pages of the Bible.

It’s a shame that more people have never taken the time ... or made the effort ... to read about God’s Son.

Lots of folks talk about Jesus ... as being just an ordinary Jewish man that lived 2000 years ago.

Just an interesting man.

But not the Son of God in the flesh.

People talk about Him. But they don’t know Him.

They’ve never taken the time to read about Him ... to make up their minds for themselves ... whether or not they are going to believe in him ... and trust in Him to give them a home in Heaven.

Parents give their kids all kinds of things to read ... to help them grow up and mature in life ... but sadly ... too few parents let them read the Word of God ... and let them make their own choices.

It doesn’t seem to make sense. “Be all you can be in all aspects of your life ... except where a home on Heaven is concerned.

People have read writings of men ...that have caused nations to be destroyed ... along with millions of innocent people.

I wish more people would just read the Gospel of Luke ... for instance ...

What are they afraid of? Having to give something up? Obedience to a loving Sovereign God?

Just read it ... and see what you think. Give it an even chance.

It’s a simple enough read. Read it ... beginning to end ... a story. Let it wash over you.

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You’ll see Jesus’ life ... You’ll see that He showed us how God wants us to live.

You’ll see Him dying ... on the cross ... a horrible death ...to pay the price for our sins.

You’ll see the Father raise His Son from the dead. Jesus is the first to rise ...never again to die.

You’ll see Jesus ascending back to Heaven ... to be with God once again.

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We sing a hymn ... “Tell Me The Story of Jesus”

Once you know the story of Jesus the Christ ... the hymn will bring tears to your eyes.

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Tell me the story of Jesus ... write on my heart every word;

Tell me the story most precious ... sweetest that ever was heard.

Tell how the angels in chorus ... sang as they welcomed His birth,
"Glory to God in the highest! ... Peace and good tidings to earth."

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When you read about the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary you'll be filled with wonder.

(Luke 1:26-38) ... "The angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid. You have found favor with God. Behold! You are to become a mother and have a Son. You are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great. He will be called the Son of the Most High.'

Mary asked how that could be possible since she was yet to be married.

Gabriel told her that she would be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Nine months later ... Baby Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem.

God in the form of a human being.

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The child grew. He was an infant. A toddler. A little boy.

Scripture tells us that the lad had to grow ... had to learn right from wrong ... had to learn to practice right.

Jesus was twelve years old when He got lost from His mom and dad ... Mary and Joseph ... in Jerusalem

After a frantic search ... they found Him in the Temple ... in discussion with the elders
"listening to them and asking them questions"

When asked why He wandered off ... he said ... "I must be about My Father's business."

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Jesus experienced the same emotions we do ... you and me ...

He experienced joy.

When his beloved friend, Lazarus, died ... He experienced extreme sorrow ... and He wept.

The money changers in the Temple angered Him ... and He physically drove them out.

As He was beginning His ministry ... at a wedding ... Jesus' mother (Mary) wanted to ... maybe ... show off her son's power ... by performing a miracle ... turning water into fruit of the vine

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Jesus was kind. He was patient. He was loving.

He showed mercy. He demonstrated tenderness and compassion.

He was strong when He needed to be strong. Yet was humble in His strength.

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On many occasions ... He proved that He was who He said He was ... the Son of God in the flesh ... by performing amazing miracles

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He showed us how to listen.

When a job needed to be done ... He showed us how to sacrifice to achieve a goal.

He always put his Father's will ... God's will ... first. Always. No matter what.

This is what enabled Him to defeat Satan's temptations ... when He was tested in the Wilderness.

This is what enabled Him to live as we do ... yet without sin (Heb 4:15).

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Jesus showed us what God, the Father is like. Jesus gave us a long hard look.

Jesus said ... "If you have seen Me ... you have seen My Father."

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In His death on the cross ... He taught us how to sacrifice the temporary things and cares of this life... for an eternal home in Heaven.

Jesus inspires others to focus on spiritual things ... not on earthy things.

Jesus has shown that we can rise about any trials ... and be the stronger for it ... because His Father will help us through ... as Jesus helps us when we pray.

He reigns now ... as King of Kings ,, at His Father's right hand ... anchoring our Hope in Heaven.

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Now God waits ... giving us time to get our lives straightened up.

2 Peter 3:18-20 ... says that God is longsuffering ... patient ... toward us ... not wanting any to perish ... but for all to come to repentance.

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Yet someday ... the Father will say to Jesus ... "Return for the faithful ... fetch them home to Me."

The faithful who are alive when Jesus returns ... will be taken home.

The faithful who are in their graves will be raised ...

They will all ... go together to Heaven with Jesus.

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A home in Heaven forever is promised by my Jesus

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Let's never forget this. We are eternal souls ... housed in Human bodies that will one day wear out and quit.

Then where will our souls be?

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My Jesus has planned for that.

That's why I believe in Him ... and why I try my best to do what He's asked of me.

And why I ask forgiveness when I sin.

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Listen to the words of the hymn as we close ...

Fasting alone in the desert, tell of the days that are past,
How for our sins He was tempted, yet was triumphant at last.

Tell of the years of His labor, tell of the sorrow He bore;
He was despised and afflicted, homeless, rejected and poor.

Tell of the cross where they nailed Him, writhing in anguish and pain;
Tell of the grave where they laid Him, tell how He liveth again.
Love in that story so tender, clearer than ever I see;
Stay, let me weep while you whisper, Love paid the ransom for me.”

Tell me the story of Jesus ... write on my heart every word

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Imagine a life that is safe in the arms of Jesus. Imagine an eternal home in Heaven with loved ones ... free from the cares and trials of this temporary life.

It's not a dream ... or should I say ... it's not ONLY a dream ... it's a promise Jesus has made **to you**.

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Thank you!

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