

THE CRUCIALITY OF JESUS

Introduction

- 1) **“Cruciality”** – quality or state of being crucial (important, significant, essential)
– state of critical urgency; a serious and determined necessity
- 2) **Cruciality** describes something that is important *and* urgent (Titus 3:14; 2 Tim. 4:2)
 - a) Requires immediate attention and urgent action (cf. Gen. 19:14-16; Mk. 1:15)
- 3) After talking with Jesus, the Samaritan woman “left her waterpot” to go into the city to tell others a crucial and urgent message about the man she had met (Jn. 4:28)
 - a) Something had become more crucial and urgent than carrying her water back home
- 4) We can learn all about Julius Caesar and then forget everything without endangering our lives or our destinies, but not so with Jesus
 - a) When one learns about Jesus he finds the truth that requires crucial decisions – the kinds of decisions that call for serious commitments and life-changing actions
- 5) This lesson will consider **the cruciality of Jesus** for every individual

I) **THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE**

- A) Jesus is unique as the sole provider of God’s way, truth, and life – by Him alone we understand the Father’s nature, mind, and being (Jn. 14:6)
- B) It is crucial that man go to Jesus to be in fellowship with God

II) **CORNERSTONE OR STUMBLING STONE**

- A) Depending on our crucial choice of obedience or disobedience, Jesus will be a cornerstone of faith and joy, or a stumbling stone of failure and sorrow (1 Pet. 2:4-8)

III) **ONLY SAVIOR**

- A) Jesus was born to be the Savior of mankind (Lk. 2:11) and came to save men from their sins (1 Tim. 1:15; Lk. 19:10)
- B) Through Jesus one is forgiven of his sins (Acts 13:38) and salvation is found in no other person (Acts 4:12)
- C) Since all have sinned (Rom. 3:23) and death is the wages of sin (Rom. 6:23) and Jesus is the only Savior from sin, it is crucial and urgent for every sinner to come to Jesus for forgiveness of sins (Jn. 8:24)

IV) **THE JUDGE**

- A) When we encounter Jesus and the gospel message, we are dealing with the Judge and the standard of judgment – it is therefore so very critical and urgent to get right with the Judge of all men (Acts 10:42; 17:31; Jn. 12:48; 2 Cor. 5:10-11)

V) **DETERMINING ETERNAL DESTINY**

- A) How one responds to Jesus and His gospel will determine his eternal destiny (Jn. 3:36)
- B) Jesus is the only “food” that will give eternal life (Jn. 6:53-54)
- C) It is important and urgent to “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Matt. 5:6); Jesus will judge and declare our eternal destiny in the final day (Matt. 25:34, 41)

Conclusion

No honest person can learn about Jesus and remain neutral, or even just forget about Him, and believe that there will be no further effects on his/her life. We will either be with Jesus or against Him (Lk. 11:23). Jesus demands that we seek Him first and make our earthly concerns secondary. This is an urgent call to obedience and eternal life! At the transfiguration, the Father said of the Son, “Listen to Him!” (Matt. 17:5). This is emphasizing the **cruciality of Jesus**.