



PART 1...

Seeing Jesus In His Context

Introduction – Understanding The Times

The first name for Jesus' messiah movement was _____.

**Acts 9:2; 18:25-26
John 14:6**

JESUS THOUGHT:

The way to God, the truth about life and ultimate reality, and the source of all life is _____ rather than systematic, propositional or informational.

IMPLICATION FOR JESUS PEOPLE:

The way to God is not through increased information about a topic or conformity to a system, but about _____.

Three Important Words of Jesus

Mark 1:15

- **“REPENT”:** (Gk., *metanoeo*) To be willing to change one's mind and direction. To be open to a new way of looking at a situation.
- **“BELIEVE”:** (Gk., *pisteo*) To have FAITH; to trust in a person; to be faithful in our relationship with that person.
- **“GOSPEL”:** (Gk, *euangelion*) The “Good News” that God became one of us to show us his love, save us from sin, and shut down religion.

BACK TO THE GARDEN...

Mark 7:15, 19; Luke 11:37-41

The Message From The Mountaintop

Matthew 5:1-3

#1. Jesus teaches for two groups of people...

IMPLICATION: We're here for Jesus-_____ and spiritual-_____.

#2. Jesus seems to be functioning as a new _____.

IMPLICATION: Following Jesus is somehow different from following the _____.
John 5:39-40

#3. Jesus isn't for _____.

Mark 2:17

IMPLICATION: We're not here to impress each other, but to be real about our _____.

Conclusion – Believing in Christ, Not Christianity

John 5:39-40

Recommendations For Further Study...

TAPES... *The Jesus Scandals; The Scene of the Crime*

BOOKS... *The Original Jesus* (N.T. Wright); *The Jesus I Never Knew* (Philip Yancey)

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Remember that Matthew records two types of people listening to Jesus during his Sermon on the Mount - the curious *crowds* and the dedicated *disciples*. If you were in Christ's audience that day, which group would you most identify? Why?
2. Take time to review this week's message and discuss your reactions. Talk about what most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read through the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5:1-16**. a) What verse stands out to you the most? Why? b) How does **4:23-25** set up the context for **5:1-2**? c) **CULTURE WATCH:** What kinds of things in North American culture might work against a person living here becoming truly "**poor in spirit**"? d) Do you think the Beatitudes are *describing* Jesus' followers or *prescribing* the kind of people they should be? Why do you think so? e) What is your emotional reaction to the "beatitudes" as a whole – Encouraging? Intimidating? Confusing? Why do you think that is? f) Knowing that Jesus was teaching just a few decades before Israel's Zealot-initiated war against Rome that eventually left Israel without their Temple and their land (and knowing that the Greek word for "earth" can also mean "land", not necessarily the whole planet), how does Jesus' teachings in **verses 5 & 9** apply in a timely way to his first audience? g) How might the principles in those same verses (**5 & 9**) apply to your life today? h) What do you think is the meaning of **verse 8**? i) In what ways can Christ-followers better fulfill the teaching of **verses 13-16** as an organized movement rather than as independent individuals? j) How are the Beatitudes related to being "salt" and "light"? (Examine each one if you have time.)

SO WHAT?...

4. Take a few moments to meditate on **Matthew 5:3** and **Mark 2:17** as they apply to you. (If you like, after meditating share any new insights that have come to mind.)
5. Pray for each other regarding your spiritual growth during this series.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, April 11 / 18, 2004