



jesus in dialogue with beautiful minds

- Part 1: *The Scientists*
- Part 2: *The Psychologists*
- Part 3: *The Sociologists*

Part 4: *The Philosophers*

INTRODUCTION – Choosing The Child-like Life

Matthew 18:3

Kierkegaard's Leap Of Faith & The Power Of Choice

- *EXISTENTIALISM – THE PHILOSOPHY OF CHOICE...*

QUESTION: Does our existence create our essence, or does it grow out of our essence?

ANSWER: _____.

But who ARE we? ... We are _____ image bearers – tainted with the pull of sin, but still bearing the image of God. We are broken, but still free to choose our path toward healing.

- *KNOWING GOD THROUGH FAITH VS. REASON...*

Hebrews 11:1

- *SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN FOUR STAGES...*

Stage 1: THE NON-REFLECTIVE AESTHETIC – Emphasis on pleasure.

Stage 2: THE ETHICAL (OR RELIGIOUS) – Emphasis on conformity.

Stage 3: THE REFLECTIVE AESTHETIC – Manipulates ethics & people.

Stage 4: THE SPIRITUAL – Reaches out for the Person of the Absolute.

- *FEAR OF CHOICE...*
- *CHRISTIANITY VS. CHRISTENDOM...*

Jesus The Existential Evangelist...

Luke 9:23; 14:25-35; 18:18-30

THREE COSTS OF DISCIPLESHIP...

1. R _____
2. L _____
3. P _____

THE RESULT OF DISCIPLESHIP...

When Jesus is loved first, everyone else is loved _____.

CONCLUSION – The Leap Of Faith & Subjective Truth

John 7:17

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Discuss the meaning and significance of this quote by Kierkegaard: *Faith begins precisely where thinking leaves off.* (How does it relate to and inform the "Singles Bar Experiment" discussed in the sermon?)
2. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Let's get philosophical... In what ways does how we live create who we become? Conversely, to what extent does who we are determine how we live? In other words, which comes first – *existence* (how we live) or *essence* (who we are)? Discuss how these two concepts are related in light of these passages: a) **Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:35-37;** b) **John 3:1-21;** c) **1 Corinthians 6;** d) **Ephesians 4:22-28;** e) **2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philipians 2:12-13.**
4. Existential Evangelism... When it comes to evangelism, there is something about Jesus' *modus operandi* that is distinctly existential – calling people to a "leap of faith"; a crisis of choice, an embrace of death. In many ways this is very different from many contemporary forms of evangelism used by Christians today. a) Compare and contrast how Jesus vs. contemporary Christians evangelize in **Luke 9:23-25, 57-62; 18:18-30.** List as many points of comparison (contrast or similarity) as you can. b) What verse stands out to you the most in these passages? Why? c) What two words stand at the centre of Jesus' call to discipleship in these passages – **Matthew 4:19; 9:9; John 1:43; 8:12; 12:26; 21:19-22** (also note their use in the Luke passages above). d) What do these two words mean to how *you* relate to Jesus?

SO WHAT?...

5. Take a few moments (3-5 minutes) to meditate on **Philippians 2:12-13** as it applies to your spiritual journey. If you like, after meditating share any new insights or old reminders that have come to mind.
6. In context of the teachings of Jesus in 4a above, to what extent would you describe yourself as a "*Christ-follower*"? In what areas of Christ-following do you most need or want to grow? Pray for each other regarding this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, November 28 / December 5, 2004



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