

HOTSEAT SUNDAY: LIFE & TEACHING OF JESUS



INTRODUCTION – Discovering The REAL Scandals

Matthew 11:6-19; Luke 7:23

TWO KINDS OF JESUS SCANDALS...

1. Being too _____ toward sinners. (e.g., **Luke 7:36-50**)
2. Challenging conservative religious _____ and _____.
(e.g., **Mark 7:1-23; John 2:6**)

QUESTIONS ABOUT JESUS

JESUS, SEX, SINGLENESS, & MARRIAGE...

Matthew 5:27-32; 19:3-12; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Hebrews 13:4

JESUS & ANCIENT SOURCES...

ANCIENT JESUS DOCUMENTS

- *EARLIEST CHRISTIAN WRITINGS (THE EPISTLES)* – Written mid first-century (50s-60s)
- *BIBLICAL GOSPELS* – Written mid-to-late first-century (50s-80s)
- *CHURCH “FATHERS”* – Written second century
- *APOCRYPHAL/GNOSTIC GOSPELS* – Written second and third century

Compare **Matthew 23:13** with Gospel of Thomas, Saying 102

ANCIENT SUPPORTIVE TEXTS

- *JOSEPHUS (37-100 CE)* – Jewish Historian working for the Romans
- *TACITUS (55-120 CE)*, Roman historian
- *SUETONIUS (117-138 CE)*, Roman historian
- *PLINY THE YOUNGER (112 CE)*, Roman administrator

SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENT DISCOVERIES

- *NAG HAMMADI TEXTS* – Discovered in 1945; Coptic translations from Greek Christian texts dated to the second or third centuries; source of many Gnostic Gospels.
- *DEAD SEA / QUMRAN SCROLLS* – Discovered in 1947; Jewish texts; probably belonging to an Essene group; helpful information about the Jewish faith in Jesus’ day; no direct information about Jesus or the early Christian movement.

JESUS & THE HOLY SPIRIT...

John 14:25-26; 15:26-27; 16:12-14; Acts 1:4-8

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will point us to _____ and his _____ and give us the _____ to spread the word.

JESUS & BAPTISM...

Leviticus 15 – Origins of baptism.

Matthew 3 – Jesus is baptized.

John 3:22 – Jesus and his disciples baptized people.

John 4:2 – Jesus supervised; the disciples did the actual baptizing.

SCANDAL: A _____, _____ baptism for _____.

Matthew 28:19 – Baptism is to continue as the sign of commitment to Christ.

JESUS & END TIMES...

Matthew 10:23; 16:28; 23:36; 24:34 (& contexts)

Deuteronomy 28:15-57; Judges 20:35; 2 Chronicles 36:15-19;

Isaiah 10:5-11; 19:1-4; Jeremiah 4:11-18; Habakkuk 1:5-12

CONCLUSION – Discovering The REAL Secrets

Romans 16:25-26; Philippians 4:12-13

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARM UP & REVIEW...

1. Use your notes to review this week’s Hot Seat message. Talk about what points most challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Did Jesus get it wrong about the end times? In some conversations he seems to believe that his return and the day of judgement will happen within one generation of his life. Use all the verses listed under “Jesus & End Times” above to piece together the puzzle. Take note that when God in the Old Testament refers to his own “coming” to judge his people, he is often talking about using pagan nations to chastise Israel. Also remember what happened in 70 CE – the Roman armies destroying the Temple. Is it possible that on one level the “end of the world” has already happened? How so? SO WHAT?...

3. If Jesus has already returned and judged his people by shutting down their sacrificial system, what is the significance of this truth, if any, for how we proclaim the Gospel today? List the ways this view impacts our message to people about Jesus.

4. Read **Acts 1:8** and pray for each other to become increasingly empowered in your witness for Jesus.

Bruxy Cavey @ *THE MEETING HOUSE* – Sunday, April 17 / 24, 2005