

## Taking Someone Through the Scriptures

Today we are going to look at how you can know Christ from His word. You can only trust somebody to the measure that you know them, and if we really want to see if Christ and His word are trustworthy to be the authority of our lives, then we need to see what He says about himself in His Word. We are not going to talk about Religion, or being better, or having better church attendance because those things don't change our heart. I want to show you how you can know Jesus, how he changes us when we trust him with our whole heart and why he is trustworthy to be the Lord of all of your life.

- Because our life isn't a box filled with Tupperware containers. You can't just add Jesus to your life. He is worthy of all of your life!

**Isaiah 64:6** – all religion is simply man's attempts to please God, but because God is perfectly holy and righteous, all of our very best attempts to please God are like filthy rags to him because no matter how much good we do, we are still unclean. No one has ever had to teach us how to sin, we are sinful by nature. So it does not matter how much good we try to do to please God, we cannot make ourselves clean and ultimately our sin sweeps us away to destruction and we have no hope on our own. We needed someone who was clean to come and become unclean in our place.

- 'Righteous Deed'—What do you think of when you hear 'righteous deed.' It's any good deed. (Give examples)
- 'Polluted Garments'—rag used to cleanse a woman during her menstrual cycle. I don't say that to be crude, but that's how the culture of the day would have read this text! Has one destination, the trash can. And this is how a Holy God sees our very best attempts to please Him, a filthy rag.
- 'Iniquities'—There are 2 words for sin in the Bible: Iniquity & Transgression. Iniquity is sin inside of you (lust, bitterness, jealousy, pride, selfishness, etc.). Transgression is any outward expression of sin (lying, sexual immorality, stealing, murder, etc.)
- Water bottle Illustration→ Here's a clear water bottle, you can drink it, see though it, it's pure. But, if you add gasoline to this water bottle you aren't able to drink it anymore, are you? To make it clean again do you just have to add clean water to it? No! You need a brand new water bottle! In the same we can't make ourselves clean, we need someone who was clean to come and become unclean for us!
- This verse should decrease our view of self & increase our view of God!
- Jesus said "I'll become unclean for you"

**Colossians 2:6-8** – We have to receive Jesus for who He is as Lord. And what do Lord's do? They rule all! A lot of times we like to receive Jesus for who we want him to be. We like to receive him as our savior, because who wants to go to hell. But Lord is who he is, saving is what he does. Jesus is called Lord 667 times in the New Testament, he is called Savior 24. The only thing that makes Jesus qualified to be an all-sufficient savior is because he is Lord. The angel of the Lord said it best in Luke 2:11 when he said, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David **a Savior, WHO IS Christ the LORD.**" So until we receive Jesus for who he is as Lord, we have no part of what he does as Savior. This is important because so many have been taken captive by the deceitfulness of human traditions, making them believe that they are right with God when they are actually just participating in a religion's practice rather than participating with Christ! Every religion has their traditions, but I want everything I believe to be according to Jesus and His word because religion and human tradition can change, but Jesus is the Lord of all and he and his word never change! Jesus and Jesus alone has the power to change my life! So let's talk about Jesus and why we need Him!

- "Walk IN Him"—We're defined by whatever we're in. Illustration of a car crash, where we say "I was IN a car wreck today" the car wreck defines me, because I was IN one that day.
- And the only way to be IN Him is to receive Him for who He is—Lord
- Death Row Illustration→ Say you were on death row, and I see you and am overwhelmed by love and compassion for you and say to the prison guard "I want to trade places with them, and for them to go free with my clean record (I've never even gotten a speeding ticket) and I will take their record and identity." The guard agrees and you go free as me, you take my name by identity and my clean record. And I am killed in your place. Now if you who were set free never put your hope and faith in Jesus, one day you will die and go to Hell. But wait, I did the same thing for you that Jesus did right? Why wasn't I able to get you to heaven?.....(pause)...It's because I'm not sufficient to save you. I may have never committed a crime, but Isaiah 64:6 tells me that God

sees my iniquities and that I have sinned, so I'm not able to do what He did. But Jesus is the all sufficient Savior, because He is Lord.

**Ephesians 2:1-5** – Verses 1-3 show us who we all a part from Christ. Verse 1 shows us that apart from Christ we are spiritually Dead, going from Friday night to Friday night trying to find things that will make us feel alive for a moment. Verse 2 shows us that we are disobedient, which is really what sin is all about, an attitude of rebellion against God that says, “God I don’t care what you say, I am going to do it my way.” Verse 3 shows us that we are Depraved, doing whatever we have to gratify the cravings of our flesh and because of this we are by nature (our sinful nature) doomed to be objects of God’s wrath. This is bad news, but verse 4 changes everything! **BUT GOD!!** Being rich in mercy because of his great love for us made a way through Jesus to bring us out of death and raise us to life in Him. It is by his grace that we are saved. God is so good!

- Vs 1—We think we are physical beings with a spiritual experience, but we are spiritual beings with physical experience. Apart from Jesus our spirits are dead. Read “TGIF by Katy Perry” lyrics.
- Vs 2—Sin is an attitude of rebellion against God. We begin to buy lies from Satan that life’s all about us
- Vs 3—“gratify cravings” means ‘I’m going to do whatever it takes to gratify my desire’ (can give examples)
- Vs 4—Natural (consequence for jumping off a cliff= death). God’s (He must pour out His wrath; Rm 6:23, we deserve Hell). But you might be thinking, how can a God who is perfectly loving send someone to hell?
- Stabbing Illustration—Say you go up to Billy and you stab him 21 times in cold blood. The cops come and handcuff you and begin to put you in the cop car. Would Billy’s parents come up to you and say ‘Bad (insert kids name here), no more killing.’ No, of course not!! Because what do Billy’s parents want to happen? Justice! Because justice is good!
  - In the same way, if I live however I want, God has to pour out his justice on my sin.
- Vs 4—Is where His perfect JUSTICE runs into his perfect LOVE, in the person of Jesus! God poured our all His wrath on Himself—Jesus—because sin had to be paid for, and he showed us His mercy in not giving us what we do deserve.
- But God—He gives us a choice to love Him. Example: your spouse one day will have the choice of marrying you, you don’t force them to love you—because that wouldn’t be love. Love is a choice!

**Romans 1:16-17** – If the Gospel is the power of God for salvation and in it a righteousness from God is revealed that we can have through faith, then it is probably pretty important that we know what the Gospel is. The Gospel is the Good news about Jesus! I break it down to 3 W’s and 2 R’s.

**Who Jesus Is:** You can only trust somebody to the measure that you know them. Jesus came to show us what God was like and that ultimately only he is worthy to be the authority for our life.

- What is the first thing you think of when someone asks you “who is Jesus?”
- **A-Z list**
- When you see Him as this, we’re like “wow! Yes I will live my life to Him!”

**What Jesus Did:** He humbled himself to becoming his own creation, he performed convincing signs and miracles, He did what we cannot do for ourselves, He lived a perfect life, completely fulfilling the righteous requirements of God’s Law becoming for us the only possible substitute for our sins. He laid his life down being crucified on the cross, absorbing the full wrath of God against all sin, he died and was buried. Then... after three days he rose from the dead proving that he was God and that everything he said about himself was true. He appeared to over 500 witnesses and then ascended into heaven where he now sits at the right hand of the throne of God and he waits to come back and redeem all those that have put their faith and trust in him.

- What is the first thing you think of when someone asks you “what did Jesus do?”
  - Most will say “He died for me,” to which you can respond “If all He had to do was come and die, why didn’t Jesus just come as an adult and die?”
  - Because we needed someone to become unclean for us, someone who was clean.

**What we need to do:** in response to who Jesus is and what he has done

1. Receive – **Romans 6:23** - a wage is payment/ what you earn. What we earn for our sin is death. But a gift isn't yours until you receive it/ take it by faith. The Evidence that we have accepted the gift of salvation is through REPENTANCE.
  - Draw a heart on the board to illustrate Romans 6:23 with their name inside of it and X's indicating their sin, then write DEATH over the heart because that is how God sees us, as deserving of death because of our sin.
  - Water Bottle Illustration → If I say 'I got this water bottle for you, here please take it.' It isn't yours until you do what? Take it or receive it. There's an action in receiving the water. In the same way, salvation isn't yours until you receive it by faith.
2. Repent – **Mark 8:34-35** – The word repent means to turn around and to change your mind! Jesus describes it in Mark 8:34-35 when he gives us 2 requirements for salvation:
  - Same account recorded in all 4 gospels. This was important enough for all writers to include it, so this explanation of the gospel must be really important for us too! Matthew 16, Matthew 10, Luke 9, & John 12.
  - "Come after me" or Follow Me—How do we know someone is a professional basketball player? They play professional basketball. How do we know someone is a follower of Christ? They follow Christ.
  1. Deny ourselves
    - What does it mean to deny something? Reject or Say No.
    - Who is it easiest to live for? Yourself.
    - So you would say, 'Jesus, I see you for who you are and I want to follow you.' So you repent and turn from pursuing the passions of your flesh and living only for yourself, and you say Jesus you are worthy to be Lord.
  2. Die to ourselves (The cross represented the most heinous form of capital punishment. The cross represented death.)
    - Because I believe that if I lay my life down, I will live in you.

Jesus said whoever wants to save their life will lose it, meaning I still want to be in control, but whoever will lose their life, deny themselves and die to themselves for me and for the Gospel will save it.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21** – When we deny ourselves and decide to follow Jesus, we are no longer in ourselves, but we are made completely new **IN** Christ. The old has passed away, it has been crucified to the cross, and Jesus has risen us up to new life in Him! Jesus took the death that we earned with our life and made available the righteousness that he earned with his life. Now when God looks at us if we are in Christ, instead of seeing someone who is worthy of death, He just sees his son, Jesus! We are new, clean, forgiven, made whole, Righteous in Him!

- When they read Vs 21. Color over the heart that has DEATH written over it, and write JESUS. Because this is how God sees you ones you are made new in Him. He no longer sees you as deserving of death, but He sees you as Jesus, perfectly righteous.

**Romans 10:9-10** – Just like Jesus did in Mark 8, Paul gives us 2 requirements for salvation in this passage:

1. Confess Jesus as Lord
  - Lord—Ruler of whole kingdom
  - Trust Fall Illustration: I can stand on the chair and say 'guys, I believe you're going to catch me, okay I'm going to go now. Okay I'm going to fall.'" But if you never actually go, you don't believe that they will catch you. Action is evidence of what we believe because words are cheap, until they are backed by actions.

Confessing Jesus as Lord is not just lip service it is actually choosing to deny yourself lordship over your life and you choose to make Jesus the Lord of your life, meaning he rules in your life. Confessing Jesus as Lord is the same thing as denying yourself!

## 2. Believe in your heart that God rose Jesus from the dead

Believing in your heart is not just a mental acknowledgement that “Sure, Jesus rose from the dead.” But the heart represents all that you are, and to believe with all your heart that Jesus rose from the dead means that you believe with all that you are that Jesus is who he said he is! He is God and his resurrection proves that everything he said is true. And since he has power over death it is worth for me not just to deny myself but also to pick up my cross and die to myself because I believe that Jesus will conquer my spiritual deadness and will raise me up to new life in Him.

- Heart—Not physical heart, represents all that you are
- Illustration: If I were to come and watch your soccer game and afterwards come up to you and say, “Wow Billy! You really left your heart out on the field” How would you receive that? That you gave your all! In the same way, when you believe with your heart, you’re saying you believe with all that you are that Jesus is who He said He is!

**Luke 14:25-33** – Three different times in 8 verses Jesus says that if you do not do this, then you cannot be my disciple. A disciple is a devout follower of Jesus, and choosing to follow Jesus is how we are saved, so what he is really saying here is that unless we do these things then it is impossible for us to be saved! Now Verse 26 is not applied by you going home today and your mom asks you how it was and then you say, “It was great mom, I hate you!” That is not how this is applied. In the same way it does not mean that I go home and harm myself. This would be applied if I went home today and Isis had my wife and my 3 little girls and gunpoint, “Matt we know that you preach Jesus, and if you say that he isn’t Lord then we will let you all go... but if you say that he is Lord then we will kill your wife and your children here in front of you and then we will kill you.” By the grace of God, if I am ever in that situation, may I look my girls in the face and say, “Lauren, Raylee, Suhre Grace, Emmie, I love you with all of my heart, and soon we will see Jesus face to face, for to us to live is Christ and to die is gain. We have to say that Jesus is Lord because he is and he has the power to forgive you!” That is how this is applied. Lauren and my girls, they can’t save me, they are not the ones that are worthy to be the Lord of my life, and why would I hold onto my life, I already picked up my cross and died to me. Jesus pulls it all together in Verse 33 when he says whoever does not renounce all that they have cannot be my disciple. We have to hold it all with open hands of surrender and say, “Jesus it is ALL yours!” Jesus can demand all because of who He is, He is Lord and Lord’s rule ALL! That is why he tells us in verse 28-30 to count the cost. There is a cost, it costs our all.

So where are you today? Do you still need to count the cost? If so, then count it, Jesus is worth it. Keep seeking him. He won’t hide from you or stiff arm you. Jeremiah 29:13 says, “Seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Or do you know Jesus is worth the cost and you’re ready to give it all to him?

- Ready?—Ask when Mk 8 & Rm 10 happened. If it just happened today, PRAISE GOD! Tell them, ‘we’re going to kneel and talk to God, not to be super spiritual, but because it’s a posture of submission and humility. And I want you to pray and talk to God, thank Him for what He did for you, then I’m going to pray the promises of God over you’ (Promises= His, chosen, sealed with the Holy Spirit, pure, righteous, loved, etc.)
- Wait?—They need to count the cost, and that’s okay! But encourage them with Jeremiah 29:13.