

The Jesus You Never Knew

2Cor. 10:12 - “For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

The Jesus You Never Knew

- It is human nature to define God by measuring Him against ourselves. Many people choose to see Jesus as:
 - Meek, weak, and mild,
 - Timid and conservative,
 - Peaceful and ordinary,
 - Easily imposed on and submissive.

The Jesus You Never Knew

- Jesus:
 - Was born into conflict, and remained in it his entire life.
 - Frequently debated with antagonistic religious groups.
 - Called them snakes, adulterers, wicked, evil, perverts, sinful, and immature.
 - Daily risked His life and reputation teaching tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers, and people shunned by society.

The Jesus You Never Knew

- He was not condemned to die on the cross because he was mild, peaceful and timid.
 - He was sent there because He was so honest, direct, unapologetic, and bold that people became afraid of Him.
 - Their lack of understanding led them to fight against Him.
 - What people don't understand, they fear. What they fear, they fight.

The Jesus You Never Knew

- It is foolish and dangerous to assume we know something about someone without understanding the facts.
 - We miss the opportunity to grow from knowing them.
 - We create dissonance with them subconsciously.
 - We rule out the chance that they could learn from us.
 - We isolate ourselves.

The Jesus You Never Knew

- Jesus did the revolutionary.
 - Turned over the tables of those who were using the temple for gain.
 - Endorsed the hated neighbors of the Jews, the Samaritans.
 - Spent time with unclean lepers.
 - Exposed the errors of contemporary religious thought and practice.
- Let me introduce you to the Biblical Jesus.

Jesus Faced Temptation

- Matt. 4:1-11
- The same primary temptations we face:
 - Hunger
 - Security
 - Power

Jesus Faced Temptation

- John 1:1-5 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”
- Didn't the Adversary know?!
 - Jesus already had those things and more. Satan wasn't giving Him anything He didn't already possess in abundance.

Jesus Faced Temptation

- Don't you know?! You are just like Jesus. You already have more than what the Devil can offer you.
 - Luke 18:29-30 - “So He said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, 30 who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.’”

Jesus Faced Rejection By His Closest Friends

- Luke 22:31-34, 54-62
- What is the key to overcoming rejection?
 - Awareness - You will be rejected by loved ones and trusted friends, for wherever people are, there is potential for selfishness and jealousy.
 - James 3:16 - “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”
 - Psalm 41:9 - “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.”

Jesus Faced Rejection By His Closest Friends

- What is the key to overcoming rejection?
 - Forgiveness
 - Eph. 4:32 - “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”
 - Luke 23:33-34 - “And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ And they divided His garments and cast lots.”

Jesus Faced Rejection By His Closest Friends

- You are just like Jesus. You have to deal with rejection, and you have been given the same means to get through it.

Jesus Faced Mockery

- John 19:1-6 - “So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. 2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. 3 Then they said, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they struck Him with their hands. 4 Pilate then went out again, and said to them, ‘Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.’ 5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, ‘Behold the Man!’ 6 Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, ‘Crucify Him, crucify Him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.’”

Jesus Faced Mockery

- 1Peter 2:21-23 - “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.”

Jesus Faced Mockery

- Rom. 12:17-21 - “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. 20 Therefore If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”
- You are just like Jesus. You have been the object of mockery and have the same means at hand to deal with it.

Jesus Faced Debilitating Sorrow

- Matt 26:36-38 - “Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, ‘Sit here while I go and pray over there.’ 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.’”
- Luke 22:42-44 - “Saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’ 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

Jesus Faced Debilitating Sorrow

- God's answer to Jesus' prayer was not to remove the cup, but to send Him the strength to drink it. He promised a way through, not a way out.
- 1Cor. 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."
- You are just like Jesus. You have been hurt in the crucible of sorrow, and you have the same means of getting through it.

Jesus Was Hated For No Good Reason

- John 15:18-25 - “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’”

Jesus Was Hated For No Good Reason

- John 16:25-27 - “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; 27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.”
- You are just like Jesus. You have experienced dislike without cause. You have the same means of dealing with it.

The Jesus You Never Knew

- I am not saying that the Jesus of scripture is a lot like you. I am saying that you can be a lot like the Jesus of scripture.
- Get to know the Biblical Jesus. He is someone with whom you can identify and can grow to be like