

Tim Collins

<http://www.pas.Rochester.edu/~tim/study/study.html>

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus calls his disciples

Fun facts!

- Jesus was a carpenter... and so was Shammai, one of the most famous first-century rabbis. “Stories even equip him with a carpenter’s measure to beat an unruly Gentile—cf. b. Shab. 31a, and Herod trained priests as masons for the temple (Jos. Ant. 15.390, 421).” (I. H. Marshall, *Luke*, 395)
 - ❖ “[Carpenters] were artisans, not peasants, fitting into the upper 10 percent of nonaristocratic Galilean society”
- The account in Luke 4 of Jesus’ rejection at Nazareth is the oldest known account of a synagogue service (Marshall, 181)
- Just as Jerusalem looked down on Galilee, Galilee looked down on Nazareth

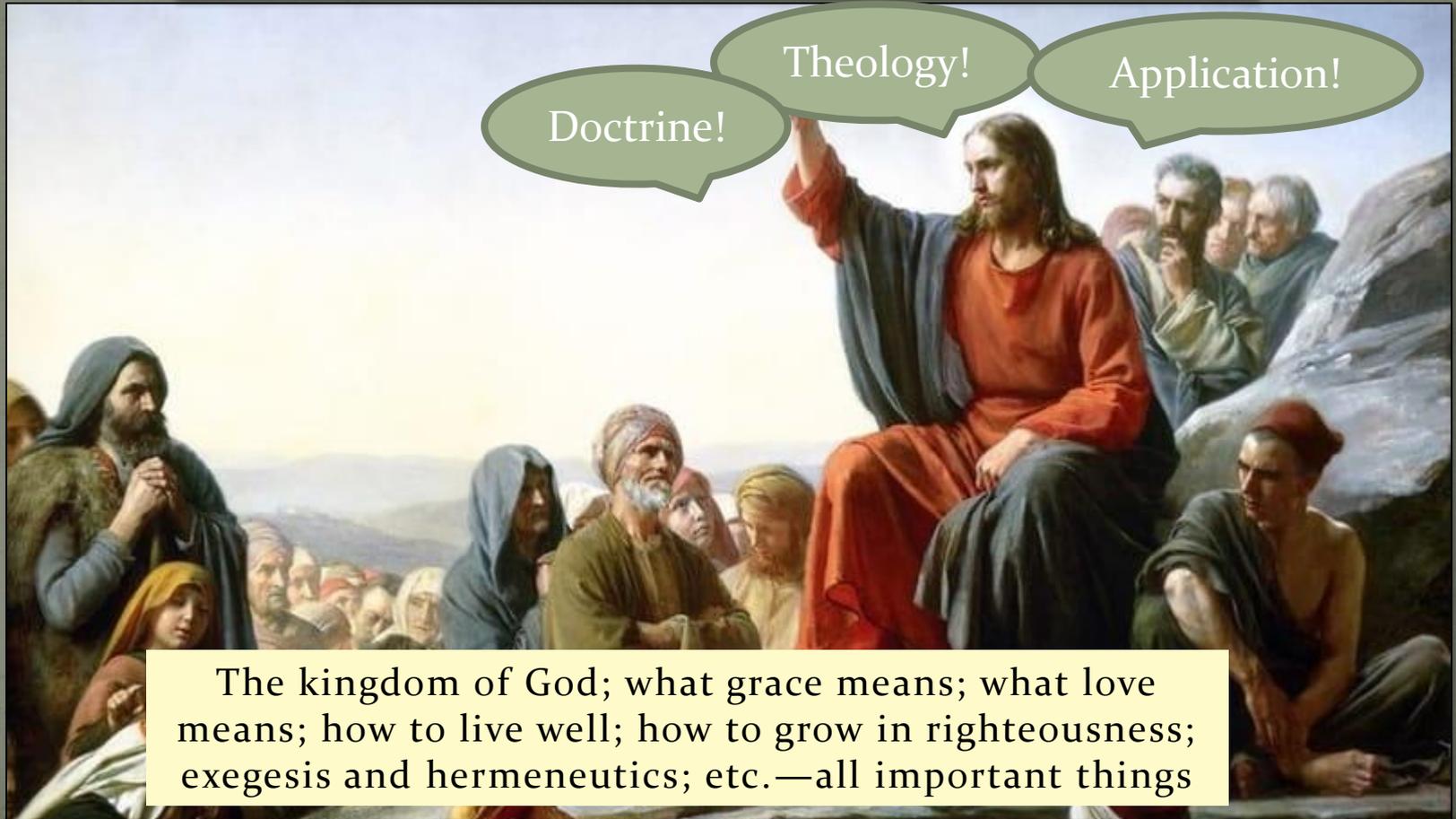


Opening with prayer, followed by song

Be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God.

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.

What do we learn from the Bible about Jesus?



The kingdom of God; what grace means; what love means; how to live well; how to grow in righteousness; exegesis and hermeneutics; etc.—all important things

In this series, we see Jesus through the eyes of those he talked to

Mark 5:41, Jesus healing the little girl



Talitha koum—Aramaic for “arise, lamb”

In times of trouble, keep your eyes on Jesus

- Over and over in the Bible hearts and lives are radically changed by contact with Jesus
- Jesus knew we would follow, and intends us to meet him in Scripture, in one another, in prayer, in worship, in service, and by the Holy Spirit
- There is no better time to reach out to Jesus than when times are uncertain and we are anxious—like now
 - ❖ *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (Jn 14:27)*
 - ❖ *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, 4 who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.” (2 Cor 1:3-4)*

In times of trouble, keep your eyes on Jesus

- Over and over in the Bible hearts and lives are radically changed by contact with Jesus
- Jesus knew we would follow, and intends us to meet him in Scripture, in one another, in prayer, in worship, in service, and by the Holy Spirit
- There is no better time than when times are uncertain and we are

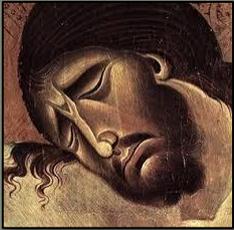
What Jesus followers do in a pandemic



- ❖ *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you as the world does not give. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (Jn 14:27)*
- ❖ *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God.” (2 Cor 1:3-4)*

Recap

We learn about Jesus in his interactions with others



- **Suffering Servant of Isaiah:**
 - ❖ *A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out...He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me*



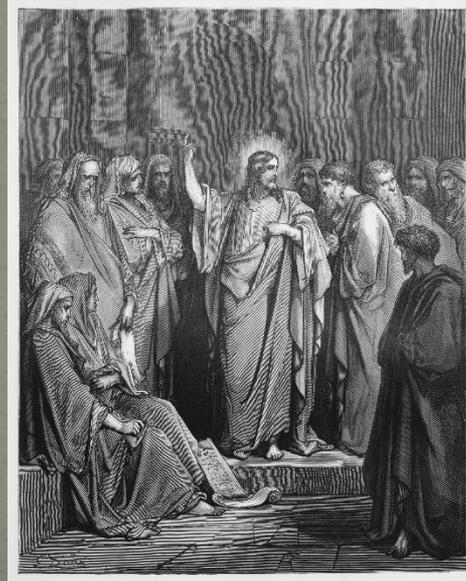
- **Jesus and the Gentiles:**
 - ❖ *Demoniac: Jesus was an exorcist; he cared more for people than animals*
 - ❖ *Canaanite woman: Jesus is nuanced and may push us to commit*



- **Jesus and his Family:**
 - ❖ *Jesus the tween: He was both a normal (if bold) kid and a human with a keen understanding of his mission from God*
 - ❖ *Jesus' family thinks he's nuts: He knows what he is about, and doesn't play favorites—which is a good thing for us*

Tonight we look at two passages from the very start of Jesus' ministry

- Jesus calls Andrew, Peter, Philip, Nathaniel, and some other guy (John 1)
- Jesus preaches at the synagogue and is first praised, then nearly killed (Lk 4)



First passage: Jesus calls his disciples

John's Disciples Follow Jesus

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “**Look, the Lamb of God!**” 37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “**What do you want?**” They said, “**Rabbi**” (which means “Teacher”), “**where are you staying?**” 39 “**Come,**” he replied, “**and you will see.**” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. 40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “**We have found the Messiah**” (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “**You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas**” (which, when translated, is Peter).

First passage: Jesus calls his disciples

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, **“Follow me.”** 44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, **“We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”** 46 **“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”** Nathanael asked. **“Come and see,”** said Philip. 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, **“Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”** 48 **“How do you know me?”** Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, **“I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”** 49 Then Nathanael declared, **“Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”** 50 Jesus said, **“You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.”** 51 He then added, **“Very truly I tell you, [plural] you [plural] will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”**

Q1

What is Jesus called in this passage?

What does Jesus do when he's called something which shows the caller doesn't quite get it?

What does he call himself? Why?

Q1: What is Jesus called in this passage?

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “**Look, the Lamb of God!**” 37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “**Rabbi**” (which means “**Teacher**”), “where are you staying?” 39 “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. 40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the **Messiah**” (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” 44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found **the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.**” 46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” 48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” 49 Then Nathanael declared, “**Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.**” 50 Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” 51 He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the **Son of Man.**”

Q₂

What does Jesus do when he's called something which shows the caller doesn't quite get it?
What does he call himself? Why?

Q3: How does Jesus respond to interest?

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” 37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” 39 “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. 40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” 44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” 48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” 49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” 50 Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” 51 He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

Q3: How does Jesus respond to interest?

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples who heard him said to each other, "Where is this?" 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following him, and he asked, "What do you want?" (which means "Teacher, what are you doing?") 39 "Come, and you will see." So they went with him, and they spent that day with him. 40 The next day John's brother Andrew was one of those who had heard what John had said and who had followed him. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." 44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses and the prophets wrote about. He is here in Nazareth!" 46 "Nazareth! How can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Is this your opinion because you saw Nathanael?" Philip said. "He is an Israelite in whom there is nothing false, is there?" "You were with him while you were in Bethsaida," Philip said to him. "You know him." 49 Then Jesus said to Philip, "You are the son of God; you are the king of Israel." 50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." 51 He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man."

Does Jesus pursue or rebuff these potential disciples?

If you had a limited time on earth and a crucial message to spread, how would you do it?

What does this tell you about Jesus?

Jesus asks: *What do you want?*

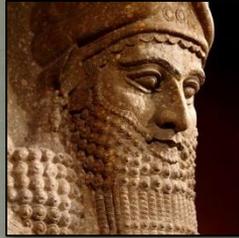
There comes a moment when the children who have been playing at burglars hush suddenly... was that a *real* footstep in the hall? There comes a moment when people who have been dabbling in religion (“man’s search for God”!) suddenly draw back. Supposing we really found him? We never meant it to come to *that*! Worse still, supposing he had found us? So it is a sort of Rubicon. One goes across; or not. But if one does... one may be in for *anything*.

-C. S. Lewis, *Miracles*, 98.

This shows us Jesus wants to interact with us. What else does it tell us about Jesus?



Jesus v. Gilgamesh



- Part God, part man
- Strong and independent
- Known for works of power (defeats a powerful monster, feats of battle)

- Both God and man
- Strong and independent
- Known for works of power (“What mighty works are wrought by his hands!”, Mk 6:2b)

The 30-year-old Gilgamesh was admired even in his home town; the 30-year-old Jesus was rejected. Why?

Second passage: Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

Luke 4:16-30: The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Second passage: Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” 23 He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” 24 And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 *But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.*

Q4: What does Jesus understand as his mission?

Luke 4:16-30: The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

What is Jesus’ mission? Does this tell us anything about what he is like?

Second passage

Jesus at Nazareth

This is almost certainly a
summary of a longer
exchange

20 And he rolled up the scroll, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 He began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing. 22 All eyes were fixed on him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" 24 And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 *But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.*

Second pa

His people: We know you are just Mary's son, but we hear you're famous now—so show us your stuff

Jesus: You think you are the “righteous poor”; you are in fact like the Baal worshipers of Elijah's day!

20 And he rolled up
of all in the synagog
this scripture has be

amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph's son?” 23 He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” 24 And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 *But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.*

Q5: Why do things turn ugly so quickly?

How does Jesus' deliberate provocation fit with his mission?

20 And he rose up and said to them, "The eyes of all in the synagogues were fixed on him, and they were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?'" 23 He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" 24 And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 *But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.*

Q5: Why do things turn ugly so quickly?

20 And he r
of all in the
this scriptu
amazed at t
Joseph's son
'Doctor, cur
that we have

How does Jesus' deliberate provocation fit with his mission?

Is this one of those times when peace is riskier than conflict?

the eyes
'Today
d were
his
erb,
things
no

prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 *But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.*

Q6: John's account is chock full of miracles; here almost none. *Why?*



Our context is like the Luke passage: America is filled with people who think they know Jesus, and is largely devoid of miracles.

How can we avoid the pitfalls of familiarity?

Should we be using the come-hither approach of John or the in-your-face approach of Luke?

Bottom line: What do these passages tell us about Jesus?



Thanksgiving, then prayer, ending with Ps 91

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
2 will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;

4 he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,

6 or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge,[b]
the Most High your dwelling place,

10 no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

Continued on the next slide...

Thanksgiving, then prayer, ending with Ps 91

11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

12 On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

13 You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample
under foot.

14 Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.

15 When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.

16 With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

In times of trouble, Huddle!



Fun facts!

- Jesus was a carpenter... and so was Shammai, one of the most famous first-century rabbis. “Stories even equip him with a carpenter’s measure to beat an unruly Gentile—cf. b. Shab. 31a, and Herod trained priests as masons for the temple (Jos. Ant. 15.390, 421).” (I. H. Marshall, *Luke*, 395)
 - ❖ “[Carpenters] were artisans, not peasants, fitting into the upper 10 percent of nonaristocratic Galilean society”
- The account in Luke 4 of Jesus’ rejection at Nazareth is the oldest known account of a synagogue service (Marshall, 181)
- Just as Jerusalem looked down on Galilee, Galilee looked down on Nazareth

