

BEYOND QUESTION

50 DAYS WITH JESUS – PART 4

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- Who is the most famous person you ever got close to?

START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Brainstorm: Who does our culture say Jesus is? Can you come up with 12 different answers?
- Read the scriptures on the next pages in preparation for the following conversation.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- Jesus had popularity. Feeding 5,000, then feeding 4,000, miracles, etc. What have you seen popularity do to people?
- Why do you think Jesus wants to know, from the disciples, what the crowds are saying about Him?
- How does the person of Jesus show up in conversations? How do you respond when His name is used poorly? When He is insulted/doubted?
- When inaccuracies are used about Jesus, (i.e. Jesus would never judge anyone), how do you respond? What is your response if your direct opinion is asked for?
- Share a time you spoke up about Jesus and it went well. Can you share a time when it didn't go well, as far as you can tell? (workplace, family gathering, little league stands)
- Why do we sometimes feel we need to wait until we are living really "right" before we can speak about Jesus?
- Why does our society seem comfortable about Jesus being a "good teacher" but not his claims of Godhood and deity?
- What has it cost you to identify with Jesus? If it hasn't cost you anything, look deeper. If you still can't think of anything it has cost you, do those close to you know that you are His follower?
- Discuss the quote that Mark said, "A reduced Christ is the same as a rejected Christ."
- Read aloud the C.S. Lewis quote Mark ended the message with. (on the next page) What stands out to you?
- Who do you say that Jesus is?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Jesus, I would be intimidated if you asked me that question directly. May I never be ashamed of You, or sculpt you down to a more manageable size. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- Uh, this one is easy. Do the reading plan! www.flagchurch.com/jesus

Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV)

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Matthew 16:13-15 (NIV)

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Cambridge University Professor, C.S. Lewis

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish things that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God."

That is the one thing we must not say. *A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg, or else he would be the Devil of Hell.*

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit on Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.

*But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. **He has not left that open to us.** He did not intend to.*