

Getting to Know Jesus
Part 2 – Jesus in the Old Testament
Acts 10:38

How many of you know who this person is? **PIC of Dalton**. Let me ask you this question, how many of you know Dalton Risner?

One more question, how many of you know, really, really know Dalton Risner? There is a difference of knowing of someone, knowing someone and really, really knowing someone isn't there? Like most of you I know of Dalton but I don't know him.

Some of you know Dalton but I would guess for most, Dalton may be an acquaintance, someone they have been around a bit, but very few people really, really know who Dalton is.

I have no doubt that Dalton has a few family and friends who do really know him. They know His likes and dislikes, his fears and loves, his motivations and inner most dreams. But for most, they are outside of his inner circle.

PIC of Jesus How many of you know who this is? The same question applies.

1. Is Jesus someone you just know of or do you know Him, really, really know Him?

Look with me at some scripture. Peter, the apostle was led by the Spirit of God to go and share with the Gentiles in Caesarea the good news. When he arrived he found out the following. I like the way the NASB puts it.

Acts 10:37-38, “You yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. You know of Jesus of Nazareth,

how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

In verse 38 Peter says that they knew of Jesus. Not that they knew or had ever met Jesus. By this time Jesus had already been crucified, buried, resurrected and was seated with God. So they had heard the story of Jesus but had never met Him face to face, at least not in a physical way.

For us, we will never get to meet Jesus face to face in a very physical way until we either transition to heaven or we meet Him in the clouds when He comes again. But this doesn't mean that we cannot get to know and have an intimate relationship with Jesus right now.

Jesus was in a conversation with a group of people and they asked Him the following.

John 6:28-29, “...What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.’”

By believing in Him I think what Jesus was saying is to know not just what He did or what He taught but to get to know Him. I am not sure you can believe in someone if you don't know them very well.

Paul wrote this. **Philippians 3:8, “...I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of know Christ Jesus my Lord...”**

There is great value in knowing Jesus. Both for the after life and in this life.

Jesus said this in **Matthew 11:28-29, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will gain rest for your souls.”**

2. Jesus wants us to get to know Him. God wants us to get to know His Son. Not just His teachings but who He is.

This is the journey we are on now and possibly through Christmas. To get to know Jesus.

I like where we are right now. I like where we are in our studies on the life of Jesus here on Sunday mornings. I think for us to be looking into the life of Jesus, looking for Jesus in this season of thanksgiving and Christmas is perfect. I believe it will help you and me to better appreciate what Thanksgiving and Christmas is all about.

As I have been thinking and praying about how to approach this study of Jesus I have come to the conclusion that in order to get to know Jesus we must do it systematically by starting at the beginning.

While some might think by starting at the beginning we start with the birth of Jesus. But I think the more appropriate place to start would be in John 1. Look with me.

John 1:1-3, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

John 1:14, “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten Father, full of grace and truth.”

As we think about these passages, it is evident that the Word mentioned here was Jesus Christ. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus, the Word was with God in the beginning. Prior to the beginning really which is beyond our ability to comprehend.

But it is also interesting to note in this passage that all things came into being, all things were created through Him so this means that Jesus was involved in the creation process. Now let's go back to Genesis.

Genesis 1:1-2, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters."

Two entities mentioned here. God and the Spirit of God. As you read on you know that God created everything that is in the heavens, the earth and everything that is on the earth. As you move on to the creation of humanity we come to verse 26.

Genesis 1:26a-27, "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

First let me say that you and I were created in the image of God. I believe this means we have a spirit and the capacity to live forever and to be like God in goodness.

We will never have Godlike powers although God can move through us powerfully to accomplish His purposes. But I believe that when God created us in His image it does mean that we have the great capacity to love in the many ways He loves.

But as we read the verses in John, it is plain for us to see that

3. Jesus was present and part of the creation process

All things came into being through Jesus. How that worked out in those days of creation I don't know but look with me at what Paul wrote to the believers in Colossians.

Colossians 1:16, “For by Him (Christ) all things were created, both in heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him (Christ) and for Him.”

Through Jesus all things have been created. Again, I don't know how all that worked out but Jesus was involved in the creation process not only of the heavens and the earth but in the creation of you and me.

Since this is the case, since Jesus was involved in the creation process, then where was He during the times of the Old Testament. I am not sure, as we think on or read through the Old Testament we give much thought to Jesus being with God during those first 5-6,000 years after creation. I am not sure we give much thought to Jesus until He is born a babe in a manger.

One of the things most people have not considered and I am going off of the written page into something that a lot of scholars say might have happen and that is when certain people showed up in the Old Testament it very well could have been Jesus who manifested Himself in the flesh.

Look at some of the passage where the Lord appeared to people.

Genesis 12:7, “The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.”

Exodus 16:10, “It came about as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the sons of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.”

Leviticus 9:23, “Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting. When they came out and blessed the people, the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.”

1 Samuel 3:21, “And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, because the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.”

1 Kings 3:5, “In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, “Ask what *you wish* Me to give you.”

In these verses we see that the Lord appeared to Abram, Samuel and Solomon and His glory was shown to Aaron, Moses and the people of Israel.

Throughout the Old Testament you can see phrases like this. God interacting with Israel. Remember that in Colossians Paul writes that all things were created for Christ. And again, most scholars would say that when this occurred it could have very likely been Jesus who was showing up on earth and working with people.

Now why would this be important for us to consider as we consider Jesus?

I think it is important for us to consider because

4. Jesus was involved on the earth and with all mankind way before He was born as a human baby.

Jesus was with His Father, watching the rise and fall of mankind. He was somehow involved in the great flood and the starting over process. He was involved in the calling of Abraham. He was involved in the creation of a nation that would show His and His Father’s love to the world.

Jesus not only watched but was very likely involved in David's life and watched as Israel flourished as a nation. He watched as the kingdom of Israel was divided and fought against each other. He watched as the people of Israel fell into grievous sin and was enslaved by other nations.

By the time Jesus finally did come to earth He knew what was truly in the heart of men and women but He was full of love, mercy and forgiveness. His love was so strong that it created desire to restore all humanity to their original image of being like Him and His Father.

He was ready take on the work of the cross. His love for His Father and love for all of mankind was firmly intact. It had to be for Him to do what He did on the cross for us.

But again, remember what it says in Colossians.

5. The earth and all that is contained was made through Christ and for Him

This is not just talking about the trees, animals, plants and sky. This is talking about all of creation including and especially all of humanity. All things were made for Him.

In fact, think about this.

6. A restored humanity has been the plan for Christ's bride from the beginning of creation

Talk about a long engagement period.

Ever since the creation of the world, Jesus has been working with His Father in preparing His bride for the marriage feast when He comes back and the marriage will occur.

Jesus in the Spirit was in existence long before Jesus the Man came on the scene. In fact He was with God the Father before time began.

As you read through the Old Testament I would encourage you to look for how it might have been Jesus working on earth, working in, through and around people. Look at what was occurring and the reason behind it.

PIC OF JESUS

Look for Jesus. Look for Jesus for He is looking for you and He is looking for you to come to know Him.

Let's pray.