

## Chapter 25: Jesus, the Son of God



### Discussion Questions

1. Who do people say Jesus is?
  - a. In the first century?
  - b. In 2019?
  - c. Is the answer different now from then?
  - d. What is the correct answer?
  - e. What convinces you of this answer?
  - f. What arguments or means of persuasion would you use to relate this to someone else?
2. Peter got the answer correct, but when he heard what else Jesus was saying he was unconvinced. Have you had the experience where you thought one way but found out you were pursuing the wrong train?
  - a. What was that situation?
  - b. How were you corrected?
  - c. How did you respond to that correction?
  - d. Are there ways you try to ensure you're not pursuing a wrong path?
3. What does it mean to have "the concerns of God"?
  - a. How do you make those a priority?
  - b. What does it take to minimize "merely human concerns"?
4. It is paradoxical to say "in order to save your life you have to lose it" – What does Jesus mean here?
  - a. What ways does He show people how to 'lose their life'?
  - b. What is the reward for following Jesus?
5. Is it possible to gain the whole world and NOT forfeit your soul?
  - a. Why do you answer the way you do?
  - b. Why do we suppose Jesus uses this as an example?
  - c. Why do people often attempt "to gain the whole world"?
6. What were the circumstances that surrounded the transfiguration?
  - a. Who were the witnesses?
  - b. What did they see?
  - c. What did they speak?
  - d. What did seeing Jesus in this way reveal to them about His nature?
7. Jesus told the three disciples not to mention the transfiguration until "the Son of Man had risen from the dead" implying he knew everything that was going to happen ahead of time.

- a. The disciples heard but didn't understand – Why do you think this was difficult when Jesus spoke so plainly?
  - b. Are there words of Jesus which you don't understand either? How do you seek to find out what they mean?
8. Have you ever had your expectations not met? Often this is the definition of disappointment. What ways was Jesus not meeting the expectations of the Messiah that the disciples (all informed Jews) at this point?
  - a. What was the focus of Jesus' teaching concerning this?
  - b. What was He trying to prepare the disciples for?
9. Jesus was pretty sly in his entrance and teaching during the unnamed festival.
  - a. What were the 'leaders' wanting to do to Jesus?
  - b. What was the consensus of the people?
  - c. What did Jesus do to make them deal with Him based on His words and deeds and not His reputation?
10. Why couldn't the authorities seize Jesus?
11. What statement shows that many were convinced of Jesus status as messiah?
12. When the people were saying "we know where He comes from" and "how can the Messiah come from Galilee? What does this show about the importance of Luke's birth narrative?
13. Jesus was deliberately provoking thought among His listeners – He was stating that "He is Light" equating Himself to God.
  - a. What does Jesus do to show that He really was who He said He was?
14. What do people have to do in order not to die in their sins?
  - a. Why does Jesus speak so plainly?
  - b. What is the response of those that heard Him say this?
  - c. Positive and negative responses followed everything Jesus did. What are the positive and negative responses to Jesus today?
15. What does Jesus say about Abraham?
  - a. Who was he equating himself to by saying "before Abraham was born, I am!"
  - b. What is the response to this statement by the Jews & why?
  - c. Why was this an easy decision for them to make?
  - d. Why do you suppose their disbelief so strong?
16. Who lived in Bethany and where is it located?
  - a. What was Jesus attitude toward the message about His friend? How did he respond?
  - b. What does Jesus' actions and words show about His knowledge and confidence?
  - c. Thomas spoke brave words at this same time too – what do you think of them (if you've read ahead in the Story)?
17. Have you ever been so distraught that you craved confronting someone/anyone in authority with the issue(s) you were facing? What do you think were the emotions that Mary & Martha felt as they had sent a message to Jesus, but He didn't show up until four days after the funeral?
  - a. How did Martha respond to Jesus?
  - b. How did Mary respond?
  - c. How did the crowd respond?
  - d. How did Jesus show compassion?
18. What was the reason the people balked at removing the stone from the tomb?
  - a. What was Jesus demonstrating with this particular miracle?
  - b. How was this act an act of compassion and mercy?

19. What was the reaction to raising Lazarus from the dead?
  - a. What was the prediction and fear of the Pharisees and Sanhedrin to Jesus' ministry and this particular miracle?
  - b. Caiaphas spoke some prophetic words: What do you believe he meant by them?
    - i. What is the ultimate truth of his statement?
20. What does it mean to "receive the kingdom of God like a little child"?
21. What is Jesus' answer to the question "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
  - a. How does the man respond to Jesus' answer?
  - b. What does Jesus' say the man is still lacking?
  - c. What are the implications of Jesus' statement for this man? For people today?
22. How difficult is it for the rich to enter the kingdom of God in Jesus' words?
  - a. What is the reaction to this by the disciples?
  - b. What way doe Jesus reassure them?
  - c. Does this whole interaction cause you to be uneasy or reassured? Why?
23. The Triumphant Entry is an amazing display an impromptu parade of honor for Jesus.
  - a. How did this play into the anticipation of the crowds?
  - b. What way did Jesus deserve the way he was treated?
  - c. What ways did they honor Him?
24. How did Jesus react to what He found in the temple?
  - a. What was the reason He gave for doing what He did?
  - b. What ways did the moneychangers keep people from praying?
  - c. Are there any parallels to this today?
25. How did Jesus spend the next few days?
  - a. What was the result of His ministry during this time?
  - b. What was the "authentication" of Jesus ministry being from God?
  - c. What again was the reaction of the people who heard Jesus?
    - i. Why did many not openly state their faith in Jesus?
    - ii. Can something like this occur today? Have you had any experience with a similar situation?
26. What was the deterrent for not openly arresting Jesus?
  - a. How did their plan to arrest and ultimately kill Jesus gain great traction?
  - b. What is the reason that is given for Judas' actions?
27. Jesus life on Earth was a consistent and inexorable move toward Jerusalem and His ultimate goal. He was constantly teaching and calling for all people to believe Him and respond with faith. Some did and some did not. Even reacting with malice and anger. –
  - a. To what extent do you see something similar today?
  - b. How do you (we/the Church) present Christ consistently provoking people either to faith or rejection?