

Your own personal Jesus

Meet and greet

Good morning church, I'm so excited to be here this morning I'm so excited that you're here this morning. We have some really good scripture to cover. We have some good meat here and we are going to learn a lot this morning and how to apply what we've learned to our everyday lives so Are you ready?

Before we get into that I would like to have the kids come up

Who is Jesus? One word!

Who brought their bibles this morning?

Please turn to Matthew Chapter 11 verses one through 6

Matthew 11:1-6

When Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

²Now *while* in prison, John heard about the works of Christ, and he sent *word* by his disciples, ³and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for someone else?” ⁴Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵*those who are* blind receive sight and *those who* limp walk, *those* with leprosy are cleansed and *those who are* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶And blessed is any person who does not take offense at Me.”

So when I read these first 6 verses I thought to myself why is John the Baptist not sounding like John the Baptist because what I know of John the Baptist is that he had an amazing passion for Jesus, that he paved the way for Jesus.

From the very beginning of John's story in

Luke chapter 1:41 it says When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Explain: even before birth John knew

John wasn't just an ordinary man it explains that in Luke chapter 1 God had purpose for John even before he took his first breath.

Luke 1: 15-17

¹⁵For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And *it is he who* will go as a *forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers back to *their* children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

In John 3:28-30 John the Baptist said

John 3:28-30

²⁸You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' ²⁹He who has the bride is the groom; but the friend of the groom, who stands and listens to him, rejoices greatly because of the groom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease.

John had an amazing amount of passion to announce the coming Messiah and built his whole life around this purpose.

So what happened?

Reminder... Matthew 11:3

³and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for someone else?”

John is doubting Jesus, not that He is Jesus the Messiah and the Son of God, but that by His actions whether He is capable of being the Savior that John wanted Him to be. John wanted Jesus to be a different kind of savior. He wanted to be rescued and for judgment to be brought to the enemy without hesitation and without mercy and grace.

In John's defense he was in prison, history states that he was held in Machaerus that was a very brutal prison that was in the region of Perea.

Why was John in prison? King Herod put John in prison because John called him on his sin due to him marrying his brother's wife Herodias.

Mark 6:17-19

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent *men* and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her. ¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.” ¹⁹And Herodias

held a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death, and could not *do so*;

In John's mind he had reason for wanting Jesus to come with his winnowing fork, he wanted Jesus to take care of all of the evil and the sin that he was witnessing.

So the sarcasm was not really his fault even though it was his fault.

John wanted Jesus to do what he wanted him to do. He wanted Jesus to be who he wanted Him to be.

Point: We all have that problem sometimes don't we?

We want Jesus to be who we want Him to be.

We want Jesus to do what we want Him to do.

When we want Him to do it.

And when we don't get our way then we question Him.

I'm broke Jesus I don't have enough money to get by, and you're not instantly rich. Where are you Jesus? Why are you not taking care of me?

But that's not Necessarily Jesus' will for you, maybe the problem isn't your finances maybe the problem is your contentment, or gratefulness.

Or here's another one.

Jesus please help me, my boss, my brother, friend, fill in the blank_____treats me terribly, they're rude, they're mean, they don't understand. Please Get Me Out of this situation or please make them stop.

And then maybe it gets worse.

Jesus where are you? Why didn't you deliver me?

Maybe that's because Jesus is teaching you something maybe you're supposed to love that person more. Maybe you're supposed to show that person who Jesus is. Maybe you're supposed to get to the root cause of their issue.

So many times we want Jesus to be who we want Jesus to be not who Jesus is because as the kids said earlier Jesus is what? Jesus is love and sometimes loving is hard if not almost impossible.

Now don't get me wrong I'm not bashing on John, John was a definite hero of the Bible and Jesus loved John which he will show in scripture to come.

Remember that Jesus is the only one that ever put His foot on this earth that was perfect and that even the heroes of the Bible were human and had flaws, just like we do.

John expected Jesus to save him from prison he expected Jesus to bring judgment and purification and power he wanted a conquering / judging Messiah.

A lot of things didn't make sense to John because John knew that Jesus was the Messiah scripture says so in

Matthew 3:17 After John had baptized Jesus, God said **and behold, a voice from heaven said, “this is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.”**

How could John deny that, he was witness to the miracle... He couldn't... God himself said that Jesus is his son so where's the breakdown where did John lose his way in a sense.

In order to understand more clearly where John's mind was we just need to back up a few verses to verse 10-12 in chapter 3.

Matthew 3:10-12

¹⁰And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is being cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

John wants Jesus to set things right in the way that he wants them to be.

We can't fully blame John. We may be able to blame John for cherry picking the Bible and for making the Bible mean what he wants it to

mean there are many verses in the Bible that if misread or misunderstood sound like Jesus was coming with a literal sword.

And for that matter He will be, as we see in the book of Revelation.

When the Bible mentions a sword or a rod, it does not always mean a literal sword or rod, in Isaiah 11:4 it says...

Isaiah 11:4

But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the humble of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

Explain Isaiah 11:4

What is the rod of his mouth?

What does it mean that the breath of his lips will slay the wicked?

That's why we need to study the Bible not just read the Bible but study it, to dive into the Bible to go word by word or phrase by phrase and to figure out not only what Jesus is saying, but what the deeper meaning is. However, it's not only about studying what the words say but it's about knowing what Jesus's character and what God's character is.

It's much like last week when Patrick was preaching in Matthew.

Please turn to [Matthew 10:34-39](#)

³⁴ “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I came to turn a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and a person’s enemies *will be* the members of his household.

³⁷ “The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And the one who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ The one who has found his life will lose it, and the one who has lost his life on My account will find it.

This set of verses can sound fairly harsh, and we can see how John the Baptist may have come to the belief he had about Jesus purpose, but it goes against what we know Jesus’s character to be, so if we take time and study what these verses say and combine them with Jesus’ character what can we find out?

Let's start with verse 34 what is the sword? Is it a literal sword? What does Jesus call the sword? The word! And what is the word? The truth!

Is it easy for someone that doesn't live in the truth to hear the truth?
Is it easy for someone that enjoys living in the flesh to live in the spirit?... No! It's not.

That can easily divide people, families, and nations. Jesus came to bring the truth and life and that's not always easy for people to take.

Jesus says to love Him more than anyone else, more than your mother, more than your father, more than your son, more than your daughter.

Jesus brings the truth and life and not everyone can accept that, not everyone wants to accept that. Not everyone wants the truth because the truth is hard. But Jesus is saying here, stand for me even against those closest to you. Has anyone in here lost a relationship with a family member because of your beliefs?

What is Jesus goal? The answer is to have us with him and with our Father.

Reading the scripture alone this passage can sound harsh. But combining the words with His character brings out the whole meaning of the scripture.

So back to chapter 11, what does Jesus do? Does Jesus rebuke John? No! Jesus shows John who he is and how the savior of the world does not conquer through blood and battle but through love, sacrifice, and gentleness.

Matthew 11:4-6

⁴Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵*those who are* blind receive sight and *those who* limp walk, *those* with leprosy are cleansed and *those who are* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶And blessed is any person who does not take offense at Me.”

Jesus is not only showing who he is and what he has come to do but it's also fulfilling what is widely regarded as Messianic prophecy in...

Isaiah 35:5-6a

Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened,
And the ears of those who are deaf will be unstopped.
⁶Then those who limp will leap like a deer,
And the tongue of those who cannot speak will shout for joy.

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus says who He is.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.”

How many of us Have “cherry picked” The Bible?

How many of us have used scripture to prove a point?

How many of us have taken scripture out of context (even just a little) to make it mean what we want it to mean?

I don't want you to raise your hands but you know as well as I do that most of us stand guilty of this.

That's why it's so important that we

1. study the Bible,
2. study God's character,
3. read everything in context
4. correlate with other passages in the Bible
5. pay attention to pronouns
6. Understand the authors when, where and why,

Before we ever make an interpretation and then after we have an accurate understanding of what scripture says then learning how to apply it to our lives.

The Bible isn't just a history lesson it's a living and breathing instruction on how we are to live and become more Christ like.

I don't want to skip past verse 6

Matthew 11:6

“And blessed is any person who does not take offense at Me.”

To understand this verse we have to go to the Greek meaning of the phrase “take offense”.

The Greek word is (*skandalizō*)

Which means :

to stumble, to be tripped up, to fall into a trap, to take offense, or to be caused to fall away.

In other words ...Don't stumble in your walk because I'm not doing what YOU think I should be doing...HAVE FAITH.

The next verses are a beautiful portrayal of how Christ loves us, In the way He responds in this entire passage.

Jesus is understanding and then gentle and patient, and then takes time to teach, and then instead of belittling or rebuking He shows love and mercy.

Matthew 11:7-10

⁷As these *disciples of John* were going away, Jesus began speaking to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing*? Those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ palaces! ⁹But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and *one who is* more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written:

‘Behold, I am sending My messenger ahead of You,
Who will prepare Your way before You.’

Jesus is commending John in this passage. When Jesus says a Reed shaken by the wind, He is saying that John was a man of integrity

and did not sway from what scripture says. But stood firm on the truth and the law.

When Jesus says a man dressed in soft clothing. He is saying that John sacrificed comfort and luxury or what was more important. John was not bought and paid for by the world.

Then Jesus says did you go to see a prophet and his answer is yes, I tell you and one who has more than a prophet. Further giving John accolades or being the one who paved the way for Jesus to start his ministry. And then Jesus wraps it up with fulfilling prophecy that is found in Malachi

Malachi 3:1

3 “Behold, I am sending My messenger, and he will clear a way before Me. And the Lord, whom you are seeking, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of armies

I’m going to end with this...

I think we've all had times that there's been doubts, I think that we have all at one time or another questioned Jesus.

Some of us may not like to admit it but there have been times that we have wished ill will on our enemies. There may have even been times that you have prayed that God will hand down judgment.

I know there has been times that our prayers have not been answered in the way that we want them to be and we've questioned if Jesus is even listening.

So what's our problem... lack of TRUST / FAITH.

If we take the time to truly know Jesus and believe His words and His promises. Then we can rest in Him, in His Faithfulness. We can have freedom from selfish ambition, freedom from seeking vengeance, freedom from holding grudges, and freedom from all of the things that hold us back from the joy and the peace that He provides through His Spirit.

How many times have we made the bible mean what we have wanted it to mean?

Or misused the words to prove a point or teach someone a lesson?

You know that's a sin right?

2nd Timothy 2:15

¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

And

Deuteronomy 4:2

²You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, so that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I am commanding you.

PRAY

