

Do You Know Jesus?



By

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Do You Know Jesus?

That I may know Him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering, being made conformable unto his death. Philippians 3:10

During the 1987 presidential debates, republican vice president candidate Dan Quale likened himself to John F. Kennedy. His democratic challenger, Senator Lloyd Bentsen, rebuked that comparison by saying, "I knew Jack Kennedy, I worked with Jack Kennedy, Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine, and you sir are no Jack Kennedy!" What Senator Bentsen was saying was he knew the real Jack Kennedy. He had had a close personal relationship with Jack Kennedy and there was no way that Dan Quale could ever compare himself with Jack Kennedy. When you know someone personally, you can speak with authority concerning that person's life, personality, and their character. The question which challenges us today is **Do You Know Jesus?** Do you really know Him? Do you know Him through power of His resurrection? Do you know Him in the fellowship of His suffering? Do you know Him through the likeness of His death? **Do You Know Jesus?**

If someone were to ask you what the message was for today, just simply say **Do You Know Jesus?**

First and foremost, to know Jesus you must first have a personal relationship with Him. I cannot emphasize this point enough. Some folks think that because they know a lot about Him that that is good enough. Not so! When Jesus was standing at the coast of Caesarea, Philippi, Jesus asked His disciples what the people were saying about who He was; they responded with several different answers concerning His identity: *“Some say that thou art John The Baptist, Some say that thou art Elias, and others Jeremias or one of the prophets.”* Matthew 16:14

The reality was that the people know that there was something special about Jesus and that was it. Well, what about His disciples? They walked with Jesus daily. They were up close and personal with Him, surely they knew who He was. So Jesus asked them directly *“...whom say ye that I am?”* Matthew 16:15 Do you know me? You who were with me when I changed water into wine or when I fed the 5000 with three barley loaves and two fish; Do

you know who I am? You who witnessed me walking on the water; Do you know me? You were with me when I healed the sick, when gave sight to the blind, when I made the lame man walk and cleansed the leper. Do you know who I am? Peter spoke up. Peter was up to the challenge. Peter said without stumbling or hesitation "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter gave the right answer! The answer was so right that Jesus acknowledged the fact that that answer was a revelation from God. The Answer was so right that Jesus would build His church on the foundation of that truth! Peter's answer was so right that Jesus changed his name from Simon Bar-jona to Peter (The Rock), which meant that Peter's life would never be the same. And yet for all that right answer, for all of the profound truth that Peter had spoken, for all of the life changing power delivered in that answer, Peter did not know Jesus! Had Peter know who Jesus was when Jesus invited Peter to join Him on the sea to walk on water with Him, Peter would not have sank. If Peter had really known Jesus, he would never have denied Him three times. Peter knew what the Holy Spirit

had revealed, about Jesus, but Peter had not yet gained the ability to take that knowledge and internalize it or personalize it. Peter had the facts, Peter had the truth, but Peter did not have the relationship. **Do You Know Jesus?**

Peter was not by himself, the other disciples did not know Him either. When Jesus was preparing His Disciples for His pending death it was abundantly clear that they too did not know who He was:

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?** John 14:1-9

The disciples were daily companions with Jesus. Again they walked with Him They Talked with Him He constantly reassured them that they were His. And even though they had been with Him all that time they still did not know Him. **Do You Know Jesus?**

Paul, the writer of our text for today goes to great lengths to emphasize the importance of knowing Jesus: ***“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, v8.***

Here the apostle explains himself: First he tells us his ambitions; it was to gain the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord, a believing experimental acquaintance with Christ as Lord; not merely a notional and speculative, but a practical and efficacious knowledge of him. Secondly, to

know Jesus is to ***know the power of His resurrection.*** To know the power that was exercised when God raised Christ from the dead. Such power is available (Eph 1:19&20 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Which he wrought *in* Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand *in* the heavenly places,)

Third To Know Jesus is to know ***the fellowship of His suffering.***

To know Jesus is to be a joint partner with Jesus and his suffering. As Paul expressed in Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ yet I live” Jesus’ crucifixion experience I have embraced and have internalized so that even though I live, the suffering of that crucifixion resides now in me. Being made conformable unto his death. Christians are to live as those who died with Christ and who have been raised to a newness of life. For if we have been planted together *in* the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in* the likeness of his resurrection:

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

When you know Jesus and know that you know Jesus you can declare the full measure of Galatians 2:20 ***“I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live, and yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and this life that I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.”***

When you know Jesus and know that you Him you can say like Paul ***“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed, we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken: cast down, but not destroyed.”***

Do You Know Jesus? Do you know who He is? Well, just in case there may be someone who does not know him, let me tell you who he is; He's the fairest among ten thousand, He is the Lilly of the valley, He is the Rose of Sharon, He is the bright and morning star. He is Wonderful, He is Counselor, He is Mighty God, He is Prince of Peace, He is Emanuel

(God with us), He is my rock, my sword and shield,
He is my Wheel in the middle of the wheel, He is the
Way, the Truth, and the Life! He is the Good
Shepard, the True Vine, the Door, the Way Maker,
and last but not least, He is that Friend that sticketh
closer than a brother. **Do you Know Jesus?** Who is
He to you?