

“Welcome to the Family: Introduction to Discipleship at Holy Trinity Church”

Lesson #2 – Welcome to the Family of Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews

From Last Time:

(1) Follow up on take home work. Questions on the Ephesians reading?

(2) God is our Father who existed before the foundation of the world as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In eternity He planned to adopt you into His family through His Son. The Scriptures reveal the story of how God has sent His Son into the world to rescue you from sin and bring you back into His family. Our church is a part of God’s family. Did you think about this and how it affects the way we call each other brother, sister?

Objective for today: To understand Jesus’ humanity as a man who lived as a Jew under the Old Testament covenant in a first century eastern culture under the western Romans rule. He was crucified by the Romans because he violated the Jewish leaders laws, traditions, and politics. However, God sent Him into the world to die in those circumstances, but also for much more than that.

Opening Thoughts: *Galatians 4:4-5* says “when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.”

John 19:16-22 I _____ N _____ R _____ I _____

On our altar we have a golden cross. What is the meaning of the cross? What’s the difference between a Christian Cross and a crucifix? (we will return to this at the end) Who was it that was on that cross and what did it mean? What are we looking for when we say “Thy Kingdom Come”? (Title for a book: “Will the real Jesus please stand up?”)

I – Jesus was a Jew

- The Apostles’ Creed says: “I believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.” That puts Jesus into two families at once... Look at **Matthew 1:18-21**.
- Before Mary’s conception there was no Jesus. But at the fullness of time, God took on humanity and they called his name Jesus, a name which means “the LORD is our salvation.” In John’s Gospel it says “The Word Became Flesh.” – INCARNATION
- Jesus was raised as a Jew through and through. This means his “ABC’s” included Old Testament lessons in the Torah (“Law”) and the Psalms. Why is the Law of Moses so important? (more than just Law, but Story of Israel)
- EASTERN WORLD: Jesus lived in a “cancel culture” (“Seeing Jesus from the East” by Abdu Murray) -- Discuss: differences between western world and eastern world

N – Jesus was from Nazareth in Galilee

- Nazareth was a small village, S. land of Galilee, village life, the son of a construction worker, something like a stone mason perhaps (think manual labor), He began to show Himself at around age 30 est. “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” He did a lot of work in near Capernaum which was a fishing and trade town on the Sea of Galilee
- Galilee was a “Cross” roads (SEE MAP) Convergence of West and East in history
 - ROME/GREECE/REASON:
 - ISRAEL/TRIBAL/STORY:
- Jesus upheld tradition but also broke with tradition.
- **Recommend:** watch “the Chosen” because it gives Eastern/Human view of Jesus while still honoring the divine nature of his coming and mission (miracles and teaching)
- NT Wright (Simply Jesus): Three puzzles to uncover -
 - (1) Jesus world is strange
 - (2) Jesus’ God is strange
 - (3) Jesus’ rule as King is strange

R – Jesus was THE King

OT Hebrew = Messiah / NT Greek = Christ / In English = _____

What were the people expecting and anticipating?

(MORE ON THIS NEXT LESSON: “Thy Kingdom Come” / Look up Luke 1-2 and get a sense)

I – Jesus was the Representative Figure of God’s Holy People (the Jews)

OT Story: They have broken my covenant.

What were the charges against Jesus?

To the Jews:

To the Romans:

To God?

Satan is called the Accuser (Devil) of God’s People and the Enemy (Satan)

Discuss accusations: Eastern mindset is heavy on shame and community

Conclusion: Talk about the cross. Julian of Norwich: “When I saw the cross, I saw the Trinity.”

Jesus was representing God (He was God) - If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father

Jesus was representative of the people (He was Israel being punished)

Jesus was bearing the sins of the world (All Jews and Gentiles being redeemed)

Golden cross on the altar: *Why the Empty Cross and the Crucifix both have significant meaning*