

Week #3 – Walking As Jesus Walked

LOOK DOWN

What do these passages tell us about the humanity of Jesus?

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. *Luke 2:6-7, 11, 52*

What do we learn about Jesus' humanity? _____

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. *Matthew 4:1-2*

What do we learn about Jesus' humanity? _____

Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" *John 4:4-7*

What do we learn about Jesus' humanity? _____

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. *Isaiah 53:1-4*

What do we learn about Jesus' humanity? _____

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. *Philippians 2:5-7*

What do we learn about Jesus' humanity? _____

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" *John 11:32-36*

What do we learn about Jesus' humanity? _____

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. *John 19:28-30*

What do we learn about Jesus' humanity? _____

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. *Hebrews 2:14-18*

What do we learn about Jesus' humanity? _____

LOOK OUT: Do most Christians you know have trouble believing that Jesus was fully human?

LOOK IN: If Jesus went through life using the "God Card", would He have been like us in every way?



IN PREPARATION FOR WEEK #4

Monday: The Holy Spirit & Growth

Jesus' earthly life began with a miraculous demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit. Read Luke 1:26-35. What do you think Mary thought and felt as she pondered the angel's announcement?

What role did the Holy Spirit play in bringing life into Mary's womb? Read John 3:5-9. How is the birth of Jesus similar to our "second birth"?

In Luke 2:40 we read that Jesus "was filled with wisdom." The word "filled" is a passive participle, meaning that someone other than Jesus was filling Him with wisdom. Who was filling Jesus with wisdom?

The Process of Spiritual Growth

It is impossible to grow spiritually apart from the Holy Spirit. Not hard work, hard study or increased effort. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. What does Isaiah say in this passage?

What are the implications of Zechariah 4:6?

Scripture describes us as completely unable to comprehend the ways of God, and unable to please Him in ourselves. How does Colossians 2:13 describe our condition?

To what extent is a dead person able to grow spiritually? Explain.

How does Romans 8:9-14 explain the solution to our problem?

For Deeper Reflection

Write out your understanding of how to "keep in step" with the Holy Spirit. (See Galatians 5:25)

What are some practical ways we deny our need for the Holy Spirit? (See Zechariah 4:6)

What are some ways in which we hinder the Holy Spirit? (See Ephesians 4:29-32)

Tuesday: The Holy Spirit & Guidance

How do these verses show us that Jesus was listening to the Holy Spirit?

John 4:4

John 5:6 (also see Acts 10:38)

John 6:5-6

John 6:63-65

John 7:14-16

John 11:3-6

Matthew 16:21

Our Listening to the Holy Spirit

What is the command given to each of the seven churches in Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13 and 22?

What insight does Hebrews 5:14 give us about learning to listen to what the Spirit is saying? How does it suggest that we become mature?

For Deeper Reflection

According to the verses above, how were Jesus' life and ministry affected when He took time to listen to the Holy Spirit?



Wednesday: The Holy Spirit & Power

Why do you think a new season of Holy Spirit power often follows a desert experience in our lives? What happens in the desert that enables the Spirit to work? (See Deuteronomy 8:1-5)

Jesus traveled to Nazareth after returning to Galilee. When He went to the synagogue (as was His habit), but this time He read from Isaiah. Read Luke 4:18 & Isaiah 61:1-2. What did Isaiah prophesy regarding how the power of the Holy Spirit would manifest itself in the Messiah?

We have discussed how the miracles of Jesus did not prove Jesus' deity, but His Messiahship. John the Baptizer sent some of his disciples to ask if Jesus was the Messiah. In His response, Jesus referenced Isaiah 61:1-2, but left out one aspect. What was it? Compare Luke 7:22-23 with Luke 4:18-19.

According to Ephesians 3:16-19, how is the power of the Holy Spirit realized? What is the result in our lives?

What can you assume will happen if you grieve (quench) the Holy Spirit in your life?

During His last discourse with His disciples in the upper room, Jesus told His disciples six times to "ask". What did He tell them to ask for and how were they to ask? (See John 14:14, 15:7, 16; 16:23, 24 & 26.)

For Deeper Reflection

Jesus tells us to ask for some amazing things. What might happen if we took Jesus at His word? (See an example in John 4:50)

In what ways do you underestimate what Jesus wants to accomplish through you?

What keeps you from taking Jesus at His Word and asking for even greater things? (John 16:24)

Thursday: The Holy Spirit & Joy

When you imagine the human Jesus, what picture first surfaces in your mind? Is He sorrowful and burdened, or smiling and joyful? Do you ever picture Him joking playfully with His disciples? Scripture records Jesus weeping three times, and all three occurred in the last weeks of His life. Your view of Jesus often determines the type of person you strive to become.

The Scriptures describe Jesus as “full of joy” (Luke 10:21). What does that mean? What does that look like?

Look at Hebrews 1:9. Hebrews quotes the psalmist, who writes that the Messiah will be exalted above His companions. What is the key ingredient that sets Him above others?

In John 2:1-11 we see the first recorded miracle of Jesus. Notice how extravagant it was for Him to turn 180 gallons of water into “the best” wine at the wedding. What does that tell us about Jesus’ attitude about life?

In Luke 15 Jesus asks rhetorically whether salt can ever be made salty again. Where do you find Jesus? Who is sitting nearest to Him? What was it about Jesus’ character and personality that made Him so winsome to the lost?

For Deeper Reflection

How could Jesus be known as a “man of sorrows” and “full of joy”?

When you think of Jesus, what is your primary view of Him – a man of sorrows or a man of joy? Why?

What might change if you viewed Jesus differently?



Friday: Friendship with the Holy Spirit

John traces the progression of the disciples' relationship with Jesus. The disciples began as seekers (1:39), became followers (1:43), and fellow servants (13:16). Finally, Jesus calls them friends (15:15).

Then Jesus tells them that they will have the same relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Is the Holy Spirit your friend?

How would your view of the Holy Spirit change if you believed that He desired to be your friend?

See Acts 15:28. The leadership of the early church went behind closed doors to discuss a problem and seek solutions. How do they explain their relationship with the Holy Spirit? What does this tell us about our relationship with the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is mentioned over 50x in the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit was to the New Testament church what Jesus was to the Twelve. The Holy Spirit was their friend, guiding them as Jesus guided the Twelve, teaching them as Jesus taught the Twelve, encouraging them as Jesus encouraged the Twelve. It was important that Jesus ascended to heaven so that we each could know the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

For Deeper Reflection

What would change if we viewed the Holy Spirit as the disciples viewed Jesus?

How have you seen the Holy Spirit guide you?

In what areas do you need some guidance right now?

Read through the book of Acts and try to identify the fifty-plus times where the Holy Spirit is mentioned. Learn from these verses how the Holy Spirit interfaced with the New Testament believers.