

Let's Discuss...Jesus

PART 7_The Gospel & Controversial Questions



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Scriptures mentioned:

*You are the light of the world.
A city set on a hill cannot be
hidden.*

Matthew 5:14 ESV

*Nor do people light a lamp
and put it under a basket,
but on a stand, and it gives
light to all in the house.*

Matthew 5:15 ESV

*So God created human
beings in His own image. In
the image of God He created
them; male and female He
created them.*

Genesis 1:27 NLT

*The Word became flesh and
made His dwelling among
us. We have seen His glory,
the glory of the one and
only Son, who came from
the Father, full of grace and
truth.*

John 1:14 NIV

Summary

We discuss how we can all relate to being unsure about how to share our faith, or feeling the pressure to say just the right thing. How do we carry this good news while understanding that it may not always be well received? We remember that while we do our best to reflect the grace and love of Jesus, ultimately He is the one who will draw others to Himself.

Let's Discuss...

- How did you first encounter the Gospel? Was it presented to you in a way that drew you in or pushed you away?
- Do you feel comfortable sharing your faith with others? How do you handle hard questions? Do you have a story from a time that it went well? Or not so well?
- Renaud talks about how our culture values authenticity, and some people are even put off when they sense inauthenticity. Does authenticity come naturally to you? Do you find it easy to let others see/know you fully – strengths, struggles, and all? How do you think authenticity better enables us to share the Gospel?
- John 1:14 tells us that Jesus was “full of grace and truth”. Read John 4:4-26. Then read Matthew 23:13-39.
 - » Who is Jesus addressing in each passage?
 - » What motivates the way that He communicates with each of them?
 - » How do you see grace and truth displayed in each passage?
 - » What can we learn from Jesus' example about communicating the Gospel with grace and truth?
- Is there anything you can think of that would help you feel more assertive in sharing the Gospel?
 - » PS- If you haven't already, you might want to watch our First Steps video, **Considering Christ**, where we address some of the fundamental elements and common questions about Christianity. It may serve as a tool, either to recommend to a friend or to help you articulate your own thoughts.
- It's easy to underestimate the power of our own story. We might feel as though our mistakes are too big, or our conversion wasn't dramatic enough, etc. Do you feel confident in the value of your faith story?

Let's Pray...

Now God has us where He wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all His idea, and all His work. All we do is trust Him enough to let Him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

Ephesians 2:7-10

This scripture reminds us, and encourages us, that saving is ALL His work! We don't play

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the major role in our own, or anyone else's salvation.

- Let's ask the Holy Spirit to empower us and give us wisdom to effectively share our faith with those in our world who need the same Good News that has transformed our lives. As we authentically share what God has done in our lives, let's thank Him that we can rest easy, knowing that salvation is "God's gift from start to finish", we are simply instruments in His hands.

Let's Go Deeper...

- **Convictions and Kindness with Russell Moore** by Think Biblically Podcast/Biola University [video]