LeMay Family and Friends.
Bible Study
Date: Monday – September 06th 2021.
7pm - 8pm Eastern

Title: "Who is Jesus to you?"

Theme: "You can't tell it, let me tell it."

Text: Matthew 16: 13 - 17

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

14 And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Supporting Scriptures:

John 9:20 – 27.

20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. **21** But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." **22** His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. **23** That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” They said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

25 He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

26 Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

27 He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

Daniel 3:25

25He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

John 8:7

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

Mark 5:26 - 29

26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. **27** When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, **28** because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” **29** Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

Short Story:

In the context of the lesson, the question is asked, who is Jesus to you? This is a personal question and one that is designed to evoke thought and to trigger an emotional response.

The thing about Jesus, is that once you've heard of him and or his word, which are the same, you have to do something about it. You cannot be neutral, having heard the gospel, and having received an invitation to receive him as your personal saviour.

The name of Jesus is threatening to some, and as it was in his days when he physically walked the earth. But, to many his name was and still is synonymous with peace, healing and love. So, question is who is Jesus to you? When Jesus asked Peter this very question directly, he seemed to kind'a danced around with his response. Giving Jesus the answer that he already the others were saying about him. But Jesus was looking for a personal answer from Peter. He wanted an answer from Peter that was from his spirit, and one that could only be revealed to Peter, by the spirit of God.

I struggled with the story of a Messianic Saviour, who'd been prophesied to come and to save humanity. I struggled with it, for a couple of reasons. One was that I realized that their prophecies were centred around the expectations of a King returning, to restore Jerusalem to its glory days. The other reason was because I couldn't see how a story about a dead Jew, had anything to do with me, as an African American man, living over 2000 years later.

However, as much meditation and prayer, I realize that God chose the Jewish people to deliver his message of restoration, in his sovereignty. He chose whom he chose to but the message is for all. So, I've since resolve to receive the gospel message, as gospel. While I also contend that various publishers and editors, did indeed configure the bible, to accommodate themselves, and slavery.

In any case, the question is, “who is Jesus, to you?” The blind man that he healed who was questioned by the religious zealots of the day, who sought to jail Jesus for healing on their sabbath, Jesus was a healer. To the woman who was about to be stoned, by the hypocritical, misogynistic, xenophobic, homophobic, pseudo-Christian men, Jesus was a non-judgemental, liberator.

To the man on the cross beside him, Jesus was his saviour. The 3 Hebrew boys, Jesus was the 4th man in the fire with them. The Lazarus’s sister, Jesus has the power to raise the dead.

So, the answer becomes simple when I consider who this Jesus is to me. I only need to look over my life. From the stories that I heard of my 15-year-old mother, dropping me in the snow, in Chicago trying to make her way to the hospital with her sick little child who was asthmatic.

I only need to look back at the times when I was in the Navy, and faced my dangers and risks. Yet, the Lord Jesus was with me. I only need to look at the times when I was fighting for my daughter’s life, while she laid in a Neo-Natal unit, and on a ventilator. The Lord was there to protect me and to cover with his love.

I knew that the Lord kept while I was in prison. I know how he gave me his peace in the storm. I knew that Jesus was there with me through that hell storm. No one could have given me the kind of incessant peace, that only comes from knowing Jesus.

I’d tried to cast my sorrows and my burdens on other sources. I thought that sustaining love that I felt from knowing Jesus, could be replaced with another source. I thought that I could get by without Jesus and just be spiritually minded.

But in the midnight hour, when I’d the sounds of men in pain and misery. Our when I’d over hear the plans of hit on someone in prison, I thought that I could depend on my strength in a concrete spiritually grounded man of God. I thought that I could handle my pains and suffering with other methods.

I learned that nothing compares to the comfort, peace and joy that comes from casting my cares on Jesus. I learned the hard way, and intimately, that I was loved by Jesus and that I could also depend on his word, even in hell.

I came face to face with the love that Jesus provides when I met my love. I knew that I been wrong, and her love for me became solid and undeniable evidence of how much he loved me. Her very presence and unfailing love for me, despite all of the wrong that I'd done, was a constant demonstration of the love of God, and of the reality of Jesus's existence.

He is Lord to me. Jesus is the son of God to me. His word is true in my heart, and I know that his love covers all. I only need to look into her eyes, and see the hurt that Jesus went through and compare it the hurt that I've caused her. And in that, I've learned what grace is. Through her love, I've learned who Jesus is, and I know who he is to me.

I don't hear it very much anymore; people used to say, Jesus is your personal saviour. For me he makes his salvation and his love for very personal, through the love of my loves heart. She's always found the way to forgive and to give me chance after chance to turn around, time after time.

This is love in action. This is the love of Jesus conveyed to me, through the love of my sweetheart. Who just like Jesus, I have offended, time and time again.

Questions:

1. Who is Jesus to you?
2. How did you first come to know Jesus?
3. Name some scriptures that declare Jesus being the son of God?
4. What was Jesus's position on forgiveness?
5. How did Jesus' deal with those that had hurt him? What does a scape goat, mean to you?
6. How did Jesus call you to him?
7. How does Jesus show his patience in your life?
8. How do you think that Jesus felt about Peter denying that he knew him?
9. How many times did Jesus say that we are to forgive people?
10. Does God view one sin greater than another?
11. Was Jesus a judgmental person, in your opinion?
12. What did Jesus teach his disciples about division, derision and distraction?

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