



– K n o w i n g –

# JESUS

A Worship Series for Saints & Sinners

**An Invitation to Follow Jesus (6 of 6)**

# Sermon Series Focus

- ***Knowing Jesus*** means *experiencing* the person of Jesus as a disciple (learner) on the road to glorification
- This series looks at how “knowing Jesus and making him known” should be the heartbeat of every disciple
- The Father exalted the Son over all things, therefore we see that Christ is central and supreme, the first and last; there is no greater thing than knowing Jesus
- Since Jesus has been given this position of authority as the source of all Life, we will learn that everything hinges upon knowing Jesus and making him known

# The Purpose of *Knowing Jesus*

- To invite saints and sinners to follow the Jesus of history and of faith (i.e. *experience* the Jesus of the NT)
- To make *this* Jesus central and supreme in our life
- To move us beyond a head knowledge of Jesus and our faith (e.g. belief, doctrine, thoughts, etc.), recognizing the difference between “about vs. abiding” in Jesus
- To discover practices that help us *abide* and deepen a relationship with Jesus that is both “personal” and corporate in nature; personal does *not* mean private
- To consider the radical call of Jesus to follow (know) him and share him—make disciples who make disciples

# *Knowing Jesus* in Six Sermons

1. Nothing Greater Than Jesus
2. Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?
3. Making Jesus Your Lord & Friend
4. Abiding in the Person of Jesus
5. Experiencing Jesus in Missional Community
6. An Invitation to Follow Jesus

“In all the religions and philosophies of the world, a follower can follow the teachings of its founder without having a relationship with that founder. But not so with Jesus Christ. The teachings of Jesus cannot be separated from Jesus Himself. Christ is still alive, and He embodies His teachings. This is what separates Him from every great teacher and moral philosopher in history.”

Frank Viola & Leonard Sweet, *Jesus Manifesto: Restoring the Supremacy & Sovereignty of Jesus Christ* (pg. 82)

“Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. It remains an abstract idea, a myth.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (pg. 59)

## **Luke 6:12-16 NIV**

<sup>12</sup> One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. <sup>13</sup> When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: <sup>14</sup> Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup> Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup> Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

# The First Disciples of Jesus

- **Andrew & John** (disciples of John the Baptist)  
“Where are you going/staying?” Jesus: “Come and see!”
- Andrew brings his brother **Simon Peter** to Jesus
- **Philip** is a hellenized Jew *directly* called by Jesus to follow
- Philip “finds” **Nathaniel** as Jesus “found” him (Jn 1:45) and invites his friend to “come and see” the may-be-Messiah
- **Matthew** (tax-collector & sinner) drops everything, **Simon** the Zealot is called despite his belief in violence, **James** (the brother of John) follows, and so does **Thomas**, **James** son of Alphaeus, **Judas** son of James, and **Judas** Iscariot



## **Matthew 16:24-25 NIV**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

# The Cost of the Kingdom

Craig Keener, *Matthew: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (pgs 431-435)

1. The **cross** is central to Jesus' message; the gospel message is incomplete without it (Mt 16:21);
2. The promises of the kingdom without the cross come from the devil (Mt 16:22-23);
3. If Jesus' mission is death, he expects no less from his disciples (Mt 16:24)—willingness to suffer unto death;
4. Jesus is worth any price a disciple must pay to follow him (Mt 16:25-27)—Jesus is life; death isn't the end.

“In this world you will have trouble.  
But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

**Jesus, John 16:33 NIV**

## **Matthew 16:26-27 NIV**

<sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

## Matthew 6:1-2 NIV

<sup>1</sup> “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

“Reward [is Jesus’] way of speaking of the kingdom of God and those who will enter, not of a soteriological system of merit-based accumulation. Jesus routinely speaks of “rewards,” which is nearly synonymous with “merit,” and uses language typical for Second Temple Judaism’s linguistic, metaphorical, and rhetorical world (Mt 5:12; 6:1; 10:41; 20:8; Jn 4:36). His provocative parable of the workers in the vineyard (Mt 20:1-16) upends any notion of merit while using the language of rewards.”

Scot McKnight, “Ethics of Jesus” (pg. 248) in *Dictionary of Jesus & the Gospels (2nd Edition)*

## What (or where) then is the reward?

1. Life to the *fullest* within the present evil age.
2. Life everlasting in the age to come (fullness of Kingdom).

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they [Jesus’ sheep] may have life, and have it to the full.”

Jesus, John 10:10

Jesus said: “. . . great is your reward in heaven.” Luke 6:23b

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord... since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Paul, Colossians 3:23-24

## Matthew 28:16-20 NLT

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

<sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



# Moving From About to Abiding

- It's possible to be a religious person on the outside but not know Christ on the inside; you can benefit from "church" community and still be forfeiting your soul
- If you want your faith to be more than beliefs and ideas, you must receive the living Christ in the spirit, being transformed in an inner way by trusting him
- Believe, confess, repent, and profess through baptism (John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 1:7)
- Questions to ask: "Have I ever given my heart to the living Jesus, or did I just inherit faith or adopt some new ideas?" & "What is the Spirit speaking to you?"



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
**[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)**