

Who is Jesus?

1. Read John 11:55-57.
 - a. Why were so many people in Jerusalem?
 - b. Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem when He knew the religious leaders were seeking to kill Him?
 - c. Read Exodus 12:5 and Numbers 9:12. What instructions do they give?
 - d. Read I Corinthians 5:7. What does Paul call Christ?
2. The people were singing Psalm 118:25-26 when Jesus entered Jerusalem. Read Psalm 118:21-29. Do you see anything else from this Psalm that points to Christ?
3. The Jews who came out to see Jesus were looking for a great political leader to save them from the Roman government. Why do you think the Jews were so quick to embrace a political leader, yet so apprehensive to embrace Christ as Lord of their life?
4. Clearly many of the religious leaders cared more about their circumstances and position than the truth about Jesus (12:42,43). What are some specific ways modern-day believers “love the praise of men more than the praise of God”?
5. Jesus actively ministered in Judea for three years; he did many miracles and publicly taught large groups of people. The Jews of that region did not fully realize who Jesus was and most of them squandered an opportunity to be with the Creator of the universe in the flesh. Think about the masses of people who lived, worked and played only minutes from where God walked among them. Many of those people would die having never seen or heard Jesus, and not really caring about this religious teacher from Galilee.
 - a. Do you think people today have that same attitude?
 - b. In what ways do Christians today do the same thing?
6. Mary demonstrated her love and devotion in a costly, sacrificial way. How can you demonstrate your love for Christ this week?

Read: I Peter 1:1-23

Monday

v. 1,2 — Who does Peter address his letter to? He calls them “pilgrims”; what significance does that term have? The people Peter was writing to were scattered and many were under severe persecution (v. 6). Make a list of the things Peter tells them that should remind us all of the great hope we have in Christ.

Tuesday

v. 3-5 — What does Peter call the resurrection in verse 3? What are some of the benefits we reap as a result of the resurrection? Take some time to reflect on the goodness of God in sending Christ to redeem you and thank Him for giving you this “living hope.”

Wednesday

v. 6-9 — The hope we have in Christ brings great joy, but we still live in this fallen world. Verse 6 tells us that the believers Peter was writing to had to endure “various” trials; the Greek word translated various just means, “many different kinds.” We will all face trials in this life, and not all will be the same. Our struggles may be different, but believers all share a common hope: Jesus Christ! Peter tells us that regardless of our circumstances we should rejoice because how we react during trials shows that our faith is real, and that our Savior is worthy.

Thursday

v. 10-12 — It has been well said that the plan of God is concealed in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament. Peter is specifically talking about what we call “Messianic prophecies,” or Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ. Look up Isaiah 52:13-53:12. This passage has been called the gospel of Isaiah. This passage so clearly depicts Christ that some Rabbi's wanted to have the entire book of Isaiah removed from the Jewish cannon (they insisted that Christians had written Isaiah after Christ died). Praise God that an entire copy of Isaiah was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls (dated at 100 BC), confirming the prophetic nature of the book. Read the passage again. Can you see how it might have been a mystery to readers before the fuller revelation of Jesus Christ? It is humbling to realize that even the prophet Isaiah did not have the amount of revelation that we have today. We are *greatly* blessed to have God's finished Word.

Friday

v. 13-17 — Knowing the awesome blessings that God has poured onto us should drive us to a pursuit of personal holiness. What “better motivation” or better reason does Peter give us for pursuing holiness (v. 16)? Peter quotes the book of Leviticus where God instructs Israel, “Be holy for I am holy.” If someone looked at your life, would they get the impression that the God you serve is a righteous and holy God?

Saturday

v. 18-25 — How you respond to trials often shows what your “faith and hope” are in. If you tend to despair greatly at financial loss, your hope may be in “silver or gold.” If the reactions or opinions of people determine the level of joy in your life, your faith and hope are in man. As Christians our joy should not come from the “corruptible” (wasting away) things of this world, but from the “incorruptible,” “precious,” “spotless” Son of God. A life that is focused on the true worth and beauty of Christ is a life that is not easily shaken by the storms of life (Matt. 7:24-27).
