

“Face to Face with Christ My Savior”

Jesus at the Temple with the Teachers of the Law – Luke 2:41-50

Jesus at the Home of Mary and Martha in Bethany – Luke 10:38-42

Our theme for this lesson is “Face to Face with Christ my Savior”... and I really like the imagery that evokes. It denotes a closeness and a harmony rarely found on this earth. If we look for a moment at **John 1:1** we see the scriptures saying this, **“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** This passage from John’s Gospel illustrates this face to face relationship very well, because in the original Greek language the scriptures were written in we see that the phrase **“the Word was with God”** actually suggests a word picture depicting a face to face relationship, meaning complete harmony and accord... face to face, together in everything, co-operant in everything.

When we truly come face to face with Jesus Christ in scripture we begin to understand the nature of God and we begin to understand the mind of God... there perfection displayed in everything He did, and if we open our minds to take in what we are told through God’s revelations to us, it will effect us in a way that no other type of contact or connection will as shown in **Hebrews 4:12**.

Tonight we are going to talk about Jesus... the Truth. Jesus said in **John 14:6**, **“I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”** Jesus identifies himself as “the Truth” in this passage. To know Jesus is to know the truth, to love Jesus is to love the truth, and to obey Jesus is to “do” the truth.

Knowing the Truth... Jesus at the Temple at age 12

Let’s read the passage in Luke about Jesus in the temple... **Luke 2:41-50**: **“His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.”**

A. What does this passage say to us?

- **He knew the truth...** It says that Jesus was incredibly knowledgeable about God's word even at the tender age of twelve. It was of the most importance to Him, above everything else.
- It shows that He was concerned with the things of God from a very early age and that He understood what God expected of Him, even if His parents did not understand yet... Most other twelve year olds would have been playing hooky somewhere...
- It shows that Jesus had a command of the Word of God over and above the religious authorities of His day.

B. Another example of Jesus knowing and using the truth...

- Jesus' temptation in the wilderness by Satan in **Luke 4:1-13**, notice the Jesus' responses in verses **4, 8, and 12**. He responds with "**It is written...**"
- Also notice verse 4 particularly where Jesus quotes **Deuteronomy 8:3** which says "**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God**".
- Obviously Jesus thought that knowing the truth is one of life's most important things... and He told us why in **John 8:32**. We are set free when we know that truth.

Loving the Truth... Jesus at the home of Mary and Martha

Let's now read the passage regarding Jesus at Mary and Martha's house in Bethany from **Luke 10:38-42**: "**Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."**"

A. What does this passage teach us?

- It teaches us that the "**things of the Spirit**" as referred to in **1 Corinthians 2:14**... meaning the word of God... are more important than any of our temporal earthly concerns. Mary understood this and Jesus made it clear to Martha that this would "**not be taken away from her.**" Jesus was not about to tell Mary to get up and go serve with Martha... He was there to teach and she wanted with all her heart to listen. Tells us where our priorities should be doesn't it?
- We are to desire the truth... **1 Peter 2:1-3**
- **Job 23:12**... Loving God's word more than any other earthly concern... more than the substance which sustains our physical bodies
- **Psalms 119:97-99** shows we are to love the truth because of what it does for us... it makes us **wise AND complete**... **2 Timothy 3:15 &16**...

B. We do not worship the truth however... we worship God.

- One of the problems that the Pharisees had was that they had lost sight of God because of their love for the Law...
- Jesus was incredibly scathing to them in His admonitions about this... His response in **Matthew 23:23-24** is a thorough blasting... it is not wimpy milquetoast response... He blasts them for missing the point of it all.
- We must not miss that point... holding the correct doctrine is of great concern, but we cannot let that blind us to the fact that we must do something with it.

Doing the Truth...

Let's read from **1 Samuel 15:22** which says this: **“So Samuel said: Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.”**

A. We are called to have the mind of Christ...

- **1 Corinthians 2:16**, knowing and loving the truth helps us with acquiring and growing in the mind of Christ.
- Why do we need the mind of Christ? Because we are called to act like God, Philippians 2:5 FF.
- God's instructions to the children of Israel about the harvesting of the edges of the fields in **Leviticus 19:9-10**... God did not legislate a distance to for the harvesters to keep back from the edges of the fields, He left it up to the individual, because He wants us to emulate Him... He wants us to look at the blessings and the mercy He shows us daily, and want us to act in a like manner.

B. We are called to walk according to the Spirit...

- **Romans 8:1**... This is not a support for the notion that we receive some fuzzy instructions in our mind from the Holy Spirit... walking according to the Spirit means obeying His words to us... obeying the scriptures which he revealed to us... and doing what they say. Condemnation comes to those who do not walk according to the Spirit.

C. Our theology is worth only what we “DO” with it...

- **James 1:22, 2:14-17**
- Think of examples around us in the struggles of others every day... do we care? Do we seek to know and help... Do we show we care by what we do?
- Do we take the time to practice the truth we know or do we just sit on it?
- To quote from Jim McGuigan's “Where the Spirit of the Lord is”, **“God wearies of people who, as a policy, treat it (the truth - FST) as a commodity we store up in case we need it someday.”**

- The Parable of the Talents... **Matthew 25:15-30**. The one talent servant sat on the great gift he had been given and the Master cast him out, because he had great treasure and did nothing with it.
- Truth is useless when it is sat on and nothing gets done with it.
- You can know the truth and hold the correct doctrinal positions on tenets of “the faith” and still go to hell...
- In order to do the truth, we have to know the truth, and love the truth, and when we do all of them together we will be “**Face to Face with Christ our Savior**”... in perfect harmony with Him.

Our first face to face with Christ will be in His capacity as Jesus our Sovereign and King; these people, in our study tonight... their first face to face with Him was as the Son of Man walking the same earth they did and most of them did not get what He wanted them to get. Do we? Are we going to be ready for our face to face...?