



– K n o w i n g –

# JESUS

A Worship Series for Saints & Sinners

**Nothing Greater Than Jesus (1 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

## **John 10:30-33 NLT**

<sup>30</sup> “The Father and I are one.”

<sup>31</sup> Once again the people picked up stones to kill him.

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said, “At my Father’s direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?”

<sup>33</sup> They replied, “We’re stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God.”

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

**John 14:6 NIV**

## Philippians 2:6-8 NLT

- <sup>6</sup> Though he [Jesus] was God,  
he did not think of equality with God  
as something to cling to.
- <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;  
he took the humble position of a slave  
and was born as a human being.
- When he appeared in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God  
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

## **Philippians 2:9-11 NLT**

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names,  
<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



# Our “Noble” Obsession With *Things*

- doctrine & theology
- evangelism
- community
- sin (stop doing it!)
- end times
- pacifism & peace
- worship styles
- views of Scripture
- church practices
- hobbies
- raising perfect children
- homeschooling
- culture war issues
- health & nutrition
- vaccines (pro *or* anti)
- conspiracies
- nation of Israel
- politics/justice issues

“What am I here for? Why do I bear the name of Christ? What is the meaning of my being related to the Lord? What is the point of my salvation? The answer is: Not my satisfaction, not my gratification, not my salvation as the end in itself, but the revelation of Jesus Christ, the realization of his centrality and supremacy according to the Father’s desire.

What am I going to work for? Am I going to work to try to establish some society, some denomination... to win a place for a teaching, or an interpretation, or a system of truth?

**Is it to some *thing* that I am devoted, or is it to secure for the Lord Jesus his absolute centrality and supremacy?**

Whatever we may say, we shall never get past that, we begin and end there. Christ is the beginning and Christ is the end, the A to Z, the Alpha and Omega.”

T. Austin-Sparks, *The Centrality and Supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ* (pg. 14).

“Recognizing that Jesus Christ is the incarnation of all spiritual things will change your prayer life. It will change your vocabulary and the way you think and talk about spiritual things. And it will ultimately change your practice of the church.”

Frank Viola, *God's Ultimate Passion* (pg. 267)

## Paul, Philippians 3:8-11 NLT

<sup>8</sup> Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, <sup>11</sup> so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

# Paul on Knowing Jesus

“My purpose is that they may know Christ” (Col 2:2-3)

“I want to know Christ... all else is garbage” (Phil 3:8-14)

“Our hope in life is knowing Christ” (1 Cor 15:19)

“Christ in you, [is] the hope of glory” (Col 1:27)

“I suffered for Christ... that you might know” (2 Cor 10-11)

“I bear all things so that others may know ” (2 Tim 2:10)

“To live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil 1:21)

“You and I will never be Christians, or servants of the Lord, in real spiritual life and effectiveness beyond the measure of our inward apprehension of the Lord Jesus.”

T. Austin-Sparks, *The Centrality and Supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ* (pg. 10).

## Paul, Colossians 2:2-3 MSG

“I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God’s great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else. And we’ve been shown the mystery!”

“The simplicity which is in [knowing] Christ is rarely found among us. In its stead are programs, methods, organizations and a world of nervous activities which occupy time and attention but can never satisfy the longings of the heart.”

A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God* (pg. 17)



## John 10:7-10 NCV

<sup>7</sup> “I tell you the truth, I am the door for the sheep.

<sup>8</sup> All the people who came before me were thieves and robbers. The sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door, and the person who enters through me will be saved and will be able to come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I came to give life—life in all its fullness.

# Moving From About to Abiding

- The first step to embracing the centrality and supremacy of Jesus is to make *knowing him* your obsession, giving up all of the “things” occupying his place in your life
- You know that Christ is your obsession and occupies the highest place when you’re walking in love and peace toward others, getting your LIFE from knowing him
- This is evidence that you’re moving beyond just knowing “about” Jesus to learning how to “abide” in Jesus
- If you are to discover that there is *nothing greater than Jesus*, you must ask for this revelation and receive him in an inner way—opening up and yielding to him

## **Gospel of John 1:15; 3:30 NLT**

John [the Baptizer] testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, “This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’”

“He [Jesus] must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.”



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