



– K n o w i n g –

JESUS

A Worship Series for Saints & Sinners

Making Jesus Your Lord & Friend (3 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

Paul, Philippians 2:9-11 NLT

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

The Usage of “Lord” in the 1st Century

- “Lord” (Gk: *kyrios*) was often used as a courtesy title and sign of respect to a superior/owner, but it was also used in recognition of religious, political and/or divine authority
- While the Roman world was very pluralistic, it required devotion to Caesar as well; the imperial cult professed “Caesar is Lord” to signify allegiance and obedience
- In the Septuagint (LXX), “Lord” and “LORD” (Yahweh) is used over 6,000x in place of the proper name for God
- So, for the apostles to say “Jesus is Lord” is to recognize his divine position and his authority over all things, beginning with your life and obedience to his commands

Paul, Romans 10:9-10 NCV

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we declare with our mouths that we believe, and so we are saved.

1 Corinthians 12:3

no one can say “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

What Does It Mean to Make Jesus Your Lord?

- Making Jesus your Lord means that you recognize you are not your own, you were bought at a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- Recognizing there is no higher authority in your life than Jesus; no greater thing, person, or priority than Jesus
- Accepting his forgiveness offered on the cross, not just for hope in the future (eternity), but for holiness in the present
- Yielding to his rule in your life; He is Lord of your thoughts, behavior, relationships, time, talents, treasures, etc.
- Obeying his will for you takes precedence over your own pursuits and pleasures; His word & teachings are supreme

Luke 14:25-27 NIV

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Jesus, Gospel of Luke 6:46-49

⁴⁶ “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. ⁴⁸ It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹ But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

Jesus, Matthew 7:22-23 NLT

²¹ “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ ²³ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”

Brennan Manning
author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

What if I Stumble? (1995) by DC Talk

What if I stumble

What if I fall?

What if I lose my step

And I make fools of us all?

Will the love continue

When my walk becomes a crawl?

What if I stumble

And what if I fall?

I hear You whispering my name

(You say)

My love for You will never change

(Never change)

Jesus, John 15:14-15 NIV

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

“The paradoxical image of “friends-not-slaves” who “obey” Jesus’ commandments is meant to jar the hearer to attention; friendship means not freedom to disobey but an intimate relationship that continues to recognize distinctions in authority. By obeying, they continue to make themselves more open recipients of God’s love, “abiding” and persevering in deeper intimacy with God.”

Craig Keener

The Gospel of John—A Commentary, Vol. 2 (pg. 1015)

What Does It Mean to Be Friends With Jesus?

- Recognizing he is no ordinary friend, he is Lord (Rom 10:9)
- Acknowledging that he calls us *his* friends, giving us direct access to an experience of his presence (Jn 15:15)
- Allowing yourself to be defined by him (Mt 16:13-23)
- Hearing him say “Don’t be afraid” (Mt 17:7)
- Being certain that there is someone who understands your brokenness, struggles, doubt, and pain (Heb 2:14-18)
- Knowing you will never be excluded by your sin, failures, or shortcomings—in the present or the future (Rom 8:38)
- Loving each other as he has loved you (Jn 15:12-13)

Moving From About to Abiding

- If you're going to know Jesus, or he confess to knowing you, you must make/recognize him as Lord of your life and not just have him as the reason you do "good" stuff
- Knowing Jesus means you're putting more energy into *being* fashioned into his image than *doing* ministry and keeping up the mere appearance that you're a follower
- To really know Jesus as your Lord and friend looks like you being self-aware by being in conversation with him and other disciples about your need for transformation
- Knowing Jesus as Lord and friend *will* compel you to love: "Am I becoming more self-aware, empathetic, patient, and accepting of others as a result of knowing Christ?"



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org