

Week of August 25

JESUS

READ: Matthew 16:13-17

Song: King of Kings (Brooke Ligertwood)

[www.http://youtube.com/watch?v=Ts2LoTAqMC4](http://youtube.com/watch?v=Ts2LoTAqMC4)

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake you died

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

And the morning that You rose
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty

Praise forever to the King of Kings

Praise forever to the King of Kings

Jesus? Who is He?

Have you taken time to ponder that?

Have you decided in your heart who He is, and how that impacts you?

Jesus is way more than I can put into a Summer Devotional, even if I put Him into a 'box', He is still just too big. But what I do know... He is the most important decision you will ever make!

Pastor Trevor preached on Jesus in July and made it very clear that we needed to decide about Jesus. As you listened, you might have thought that the message wasn't for you, because you remember "*asking Jesus into your heart*". That may have been one of the main points, because, after all, that is where it begins: saying that all famous '*sinner's prayer*':

Dear Lord Jesus, I **know** that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. Amen

Often, we invite people to pray this prayer, assuring them of their eternal home. Heaven is guaranteed upon saying this prayer.

While this is true, and a very important decision to make, one that everyone must make, it doesn't end there.

Like Pastor Trevor said, a decision must be made, and thinking you are not making one is making one.

Philippians 2 :10-11 tells us that *every knee will bow, every tongue will confess*.

But, in Matthew, Jesus asks another question that is equally important and transformative. He asked his disciples;

"Who do YOU say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Yes, he started by asking the disciples, *who do people say that I am?* But he very quickly turned it very personal. We can sit in church, sing the songs, listen to the words of scripture, and the sermon, and even nod in agreement, without deciding what we believe personally — without the relationship that the deciding would bring.

Peter knew! He said, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* Matthew 16:16 (NIV)

Who do you say Jesus is?

Like I said, this is your most important decision. It is foundational, life changing. It is not as simple as saying the sinner's prayer and then done. Who you believe Jesus to be

is crucial and then it must affect who you are. Every person who met Jesus in the gospels was impacted and changed.

I would like us to take this week to look at Jesus, and determine what we believe, so that we are empowered to live differently. I will give you some places to look for what you believe, but the decision is ultimately yours to make.

Day 1: The names of Jesus:

Alpha & Omega – Revelation 1:8

Saviour – John 3:16

Christ – John 1:41

Emmanuel – Matthew 1:23

Messiah – Mark 8:29, Acts 2:36

King of Kings – Matt 2:2, Rev 19:16

Resurrection & The Life - John 11:25

Redeemer – Mark 10:45, 1 John 2:2

Son of God – Matt 16:15-17, Lk 1:35

Great High Priest – Hebrews 4:14

Lamb of God – John 1:29

Wonderful Counselor – Is 9:6

These are just a few of the many names for Jesus.

But, do you believe that that is who he is?

Which of these names is most meaningful to you, and why?

If you believe that is who he is, how does that impact your life?

Does your life reflect that this is the kind of Jesus you believe in?

Does it make certain things possible?

Is this a person on which you can build your life, a firm foundation?

Do you believe it?

Day 2: The Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

I read all four gospels each month for two consecutive years. It takes only 20 minutes per day (approx.) a total of 3 chapters per day. I would ask you,

‘who is the Jesus you meet in the gospels?’

Here is a little cheat sheet for things to focus on:

Matthew tells us **what Jesus SAYS**

Mark tells us **what Jesus DID**

Luke tells us **how Jesus FEELS**

John tells us **who Jesus IS**

The Gospels are the historical account of the life of Jesus, so that we would *experience* the life of Jesus, so that we would *live* the mission of Jesus.

Do you believe the words written in Red?

Day 3: The Apostle's Creed

The creed we often sing about is also a written creed from the early apostles. Although we don't recite the creed, like some denominations do, or as the early church did, there are many songs that are based on the creed. Take a listen to a few. **When you sing it, do you know you are singing a creed, a statement of faith, so to speak?**

Do you really believe it? If so, how does that affect how you live?

Can you read the creed with conviction?

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven; And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit;
The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body;
And the life everlasting.
Amen.

[www.http://youtube.com/watch?v=WjZ01FcK0yk](http://youtube.com/watch?v=WjZ01FcK0yk) **'WE BELIEVE'**

Day 4: The seven I AM statements of Jesus (as found in John's Gospel):

I am the Bread of Life – John 6:35,

The Light of the World – John 8:12,

The Door – John 10:7,

The Good Shepherd – John 10:11,14,

The Resurrection and the Life John 11:25,

The WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE – John 14:6

The TRUE VINE – John 15:1

These are all powerful statements.

Do you believe all of them?

Which I AM claim resonates with you the most? Which draws you in personally? How does it (do they) affect you?

Do you believe who Jesus said he was?

Remember this is what JESUS said about Himself.

Day 5: The Reason Jesus Came Should Affect Us

Jesus said in Luke 19:10, *“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”*

In Matthew 18:14, *“In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father's will that even one of these should perish.”*

Do you believe this?

That Jesus came to save and that he wants NO ONE to be lost? Because if you do believe this, it should motivate you to share the gospel with everyone you meet.

If you have decided **for** Jesus, and that you believe what he says to be true, it is a truth that burns in your heart to share with others.

When was the last time you told someone “The greatest Story ever written”?

Do you believe it enough to share it?

The rest of the week, as you read and ponder who Jesus is, listen to this song as a mediation:

[www.http://youtube.com/watch?v=-T64B-LtuKw](http://youtube.com/watch?v=-T64B-LtuKw) **Always Only Jesus – Mercy Me**

PRAYER:

Jesus, we confess to not grasping who you truly are. Thank you, Jesus, for being so much more than we can imagine. Lord, we confess we have glossed over the question, *Who do you say I am?* when really you meant for us to live our lives in response to Your question.

Jesus, You, are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

We love you, Lord Jesus, grant us your mercy to live a life that expresses who you are.

Amen