

How Will You Answer Life's Most Important Question:

"Who is Jesus?"

How will you respond?

John 7:25-52

Opening Question:

How would you explain the difference between a "want" and a "need"?

The 'Jesus' you *want* may not be the 'Jesus' you *need*...
Jesus is telling us what we need...He loves us!

How did you spend your time this past week, involving Jesus in your everyday life and decisions?

- What did you do to remember who God is?
- Did you spend time listening to God?
- How did you prepare yourself to deal with fear?
- Was the focus of your life doing God's will?
- How was God glorified in your life this past week?
- Did you get to know the author of God's Word?

God wants a relationship with you rooted in grace...

1. The danger of basing spirituality on a list of facts rather than being rooted in relationship (vs. 25-31)

You can miss Jesus amid studying Scripture...The experts were so focused on things like Jesus' origin that they missed out on a relationship with Jesus...

People tend to focus on their *physical needs* when their greatest need is rooted in the *spiritual*...Allow Jesus to define what and how needs are met...

Who would not *want* a Jesus who could provide all the wine, food, and healthcare you want?

The Jesus we *need* is the One who can give us eternal life...

Pause and think about this question

How do you avoid the danger of knowing information *about God* which does not translate into a closer personally relationship *with God*—knowing Him?...Has that ever happened to you?

2. The greatest need Jesus offers to meet is through His presence (vs. 32-36)

If we seek a Jesus who is not the true Jesus, we will not find Him and experience a relationship with Him...

People get confused about Jesus because they seek Him for the wrong motives...Jesus wants a relationship with us, to be *with us*, for us to experience His presence - but His presence will only be experienced through His loving terms...

Jesus gives people His presence...physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually...Are you allowing Jesus to help you give the people around you the blessing of presence?

Pause and think about this question

When have you experienced the close presence of God the most in your life, and how has His presence impacted your relationships with others?

3. What Jesus offers to meet your need is the life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit (vs. 37-39)

Our real need is spiritual...it deals with the heart...

Belief must be rooted in "As the Scripture has said"...

The world is a desert for your soul—no spiritual life...
Don't seek to *take* from Jesus, but *receive* from Jesus...

The solution to the 'need and want dilemma' is the personal presence and power of the Holy Spirit at work in your life...the people around you need to experience life...

Pause and think about this question

Every time you take a drink of water this week, think about your need for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit... So, how do you need the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your daily life at this moment?

4. Who you say Jesus is will be seen ultimately in how you respond to Him (vs. 40-52)

If you truly believe you can have your needs and wants met outside of Jesus, you can find a reason for unbelief... including misusing the Bible...

You will have to live with how you respond to Jesus:
(1.) Convinced...vs. 40-41a (2.) Divided...vs. 41b-44
(3.) Confused...vs. 45-49 (4.) Searching...vs. 50-52

Allow Jesus to speak for Himself...don't be deceived!

Who does Jesus say He is in John 1-7...

Pause and think about this question

How would you explain to another person who Jesus is and why we need Him?

Jesus offers you an invitation...How will you respond today? (verse 37-38)

"...If anyone thirsts, let him/her come to me and drink..."

"If" (admit you have a need—humility)...

"Come" (as you are—complete submission to Him)...

"Drink" (all of you to all of Him—receive and repent)...

You will die *physically* if you do not drink water, and You will die *spiritually* if you do not believe (drink) in Jesus as the Scripture has said...So respond to the Jesus you need!