

The Essence of Life!

Twelve Sessions in the Gospel of John

Session Nine:

What Would You Ask Jesus?

5-29-03

Some issues inevitably spark discussion. Though many subjects produce thinly-masked boredom when raised in the company of thoughtful people, there is a short list of volatile topics that will bring everyone into participation.

One of those subjects is the person called Jesus of Nazareth. Unlike any other hero of history, he draws a line in the sand when the opinions multiply.

At the core of most dialogs about the Carpenter of Galilee are a series of reasonable questions that probe to the heart of the matter. When the questions are avoided, confusion results. When the queries produce a reasonable response, conclusions are reached. Once conclusions are present, decisions about personal implications are in order. Not until then is action possible.

One day, two thousand years ago, the questions were posed to the Man himself. Four pointed questions--the greatest questions of life--and four intriguing returns. Pilate asked for himself...and he asked for us. Have you gotten the answers?

1. Question: "What are his failures?"

John 18:28-32

- The concern over their own righteousness (28)
- The assignment of Jesus to Roman law (29)
- The inability to produce evidence of sin (30)
- The revelation of their real motivation (31)
- The demonstration of divine control (32)

Answer: He had no sin.

2. Question: "What is his position?"

John 18:33-36

- The direct examination by the human judge (33)
- The powerful response of the divine judge (34)
- The spiritual failure of the religious system (35)
- The invisible kingdom of the incarnate God (36)

Answer: He is the King of Kings.

3. Question: "What is truth?"

John 18:37-40

- The exclusivity of truth (37)
- The confusion of philosophy (38)
- The rejection of truth (39-40)

Answer: He is the source of all truth.

4. Question: "Where did he come from?"

John 19:1-16

- The nature of human justice (1-6a)
- The nature of human religion (6b-7)
- The moment of transcendent awareness (8-9)
- The exercise of human rebellion (10)
- The revelation of sovereign discretion (11)
- The failure of human character (12-16)

Answer: He is the Son of God

Essence

"...for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

John 18:37b

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