

THE WORD

DR. CURT DODD

JOHN 1:1-18

THE WORD

Part 10: The Missed Messiah

John 1:10-11

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been driving down the road, and all of a sudden you realize you missed your exit? You knew which exit you needed to take, but something happened. You got disconnected and distracted. And then you wasted time trying to get back to where you were supposed to go in the first place. Life is like that sometimes. We can miss things, things much bigger and more important than an exit ramp, because we're distracted. In today's message, we are going to figure out how not to miss the Messiah and the invitation He has extended to us to follow Him. This life is the only chance we get to follow Christ, so let's make sure we don't miss out on that chance.

NOTES

KEY POINTS

1. We will miss the Messiah when we:

Ignore the historical fact of His coming. There are people who read the facts, but then they totally ignore them. Or they disagree with the facts and say, “It probably never happened,” or “I don't even want to think about that.” Many people have this mentality now when the topic of Jesus comes up, and many people ignored the facts in biblical times when Jesus came to earth. Scripture says His own people did not recognize Him, did not receive Him, and did not know Him.

We must realize that people can miss the Messiah because they ignore the historical facts of His coming. We can't ignore the truth, no matter how hard we might try. Even if we try to put history out of our mind, we are still held accountable for whether we acknowledged and accepted the truth or chose to ignore it.

Fail to accept who He really is. Many people miss the Messiah, not only because they ignore the historical facts of His coming, but also because they fail to accept who He really is. When He was on earth. Jesus declared Himself as the Messiah. He declared Himself as God. That's why the Jews wanted to crucify Him. That's why they wanted Him out of the way. They considered Him blasphemous because He said He was God.

But the truth is, the only way to God is through Jesus, because He is God. Don't ever forget that. Don't take a step back and try to find another way. You need to declare who He is. When you point people to Christ, you are pointing people to God, and therefore you are helping make sure people don't miss the Messiah.

Refuse to personally wrestle with the reason for the Messiah's coming. Why did Jesus come? Why did the Messiah come? There are a lot of people who say He came to teach us how to love each other. Others say He came because He wanted to give us an example of how God wants us to live. But there's so much more to it than that.

THE WORD

Part 10: The Missed Messiah

John 1:10-11

The reason the Jews then and now miss the Messiah is because they refuse to personally wrestle with the reason for the Messiah's coming. The reason He came was to deal with our sin. The primary purpose of the Messiah's coming was not to set up a nation, but to save people from personal sin. We have to come to realize that if we don't want to miss the Messiah.

Miss the opportunity to know Him. There are a lot of people who will miss the Messiah because they miss the opportunity to really and truly know Him personally. When Scripture talks about those who have received Christ, the Greek word used is "ginosko." That word means knowledge, but not academic knowledge. It means intimacy. God wants you to know Him more than anything else in this world, more than doing His will. He wants you to know Him intimately and personally.

2. To know Him, you must have several things.

A real conversion experience. You've got to have a life-changing, life-altering spiritual experience where you acknowledge you're a sinner and acknowledge that you need Christ. You invite Christ to come and take total charge of your life and ask Him to forgive you of your sin and invite Him to have full reign in the way you live. At that moment, you are born again, and therefore you begin to know Him personally.

A real conversation in process. As you are following Jesus, there must be a consistent, real conversation in process. That's where you listen, you pray, and you respond to both His biblical commands on the inside as well as the outside. It's an ongoing experience that allows us to come to know Him and see Him at work. Any event in your life that captures your spiritual attention is God's invitation for you to see Him working in your life. And when you see Him working and moving, you come to know Him better.

3. Continue to live our lives without consulting Him.

We can miss the Messiah when we continue to live our lives without consulting Him. When you choose to give your life to Christ and then all of a sudden you say, "I'm going to just do my own thing from here on out," you are missing out on what God wants for you. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." If we want to walk on the straight path that consists of God's best for us, then we must submit to Him and consult Him every single day.

IV. Live with these principles

We're going to conclude with four statements that should describe the way you live your life if you want to see the Messiah at work.

My heart trusts you. We need to be crying out this prayer: "My heart trusts in you, Lord. I want to know you and I want to consult you in every decision. Therefore, my heart trusts in you alone, not in what I see, nor in what I feel."

NOTES

THE WORD

Part 10: The Missed Messiah

John 1:10-11

I don't have all the answers. We need to come to the place where we realize we don't have all the answers. Let's never get so full of ourselves that we don't have room to realize that in Jesus there is life, there is peace, and there is joy. He wants to give you insight where the world cannot. He wants to give you peace where the world cannot. But first, we must acknowledge that we don't have all the answers.

You will have the place of honor in my life. One of the ways we can honor the lord is through our giving. When we give, we are showing that we are subservient to the Master and we want to honor Him. We show that we are not withholding anything from God, but instead we are choosing to give back what He has blessed us with.

When corrected, I will receive it. We need to have the attitude that when God disciplines you, even as His child, it's because He loves you. You realize that when God tells you "no" or He is silent in your prayers, it is because He wants you to see something different than what you're asking for. Or He wants something different for you than what you're asking for because He loves you.

If God gave you what you want, it might become the beginning of a tragedy in your life because He knows the path that you will take as a result. He could be trying to save you a lot of pain and a lot of heartache. He is saying, "No, my child." Therefore, as He says this, we need to come to the place of saying, "Lord, when you correct me, and when you tell me no, I'm going to receive that, and I'm going to give you my attention."

NOTES

THE WORD

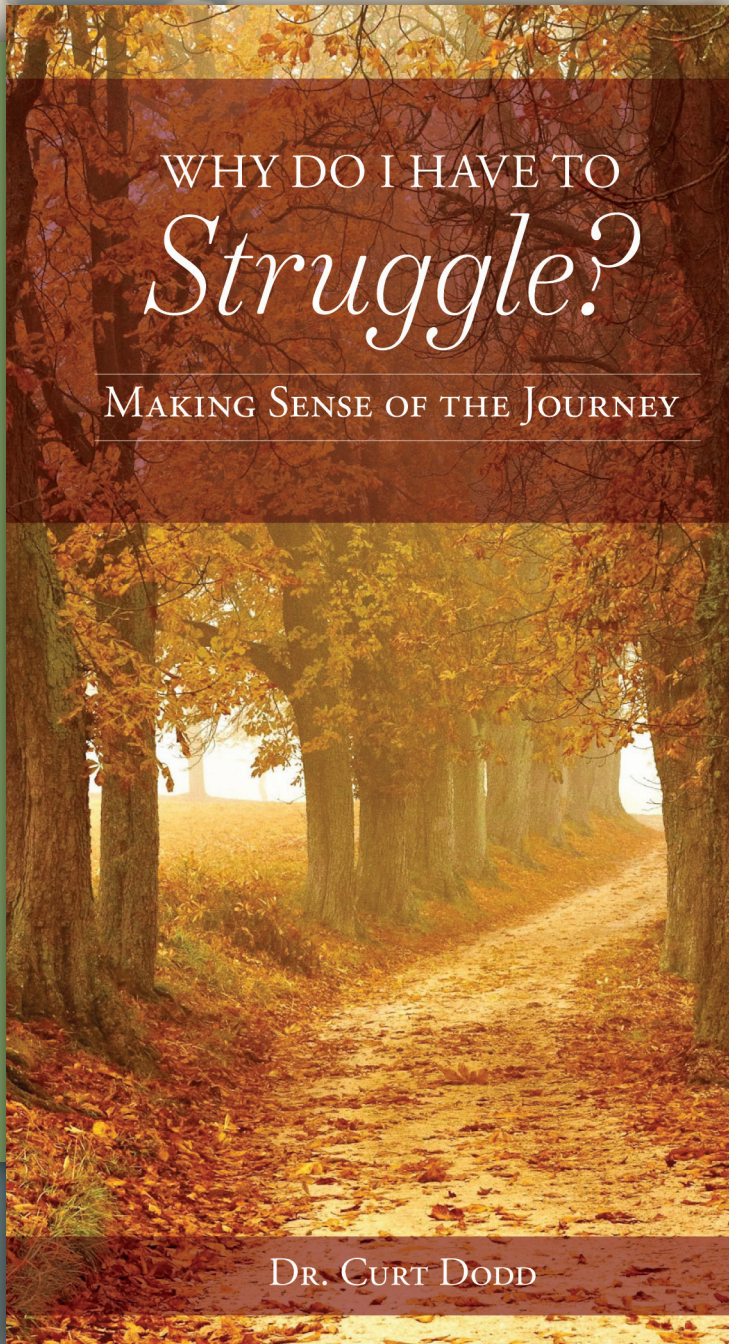
Part 10: The Missed Messiah

John 1:10-11

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Can you point to a real conversion experience in your relationship with God? Was there a moment where your life was forever changed because you surrendered your life to Christ?
2. Do you have a consistent conversation in process with the Lord? Are you spending time in prayer, talking to God and listening to Him?
3. How do you react when God tells you “no”? Do you trust that He knows best, or do you get frustrated when He corrects your path and your direction in life?

WE ALL HAVE STRUGGLES



God is with us when we are struggling the most.

Visit **HigherAim.org** to order your free copy of Dr. Dodd's most recent book, *Why Do I Have To Struggle? Making Sense of the Journey.*



HIGHER AIM

PO Box 8100, Omaha, NE 68108

|

1-800-491-4400

|

HigherAim.org