

Discussion Questions

Date: July 5th, 2024

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

Knowing Jesus | Philippians 3:7-10

The Surpassing Value of Knowing Jesus (3:7-9)

- No status, pedigree, or accomplishment is worth more than knowing Jesus.
- We must follow the same path of loss Jesus charted for us in order to gain Him.
- **Question:** How is Jesus calling you to reframe loss as a way of knowing and gaining Him?

Knowing Jesus by Experience (3:10-11)

- We come to know Jesus when we share in His suffering.
- Jesus is a High Priest who chose to identify with us in delight, in suffering, in temptation, and in our resurrection!
- **Question:** Where are you receiving direction from the example of Christ? What, in the life of Jesus, do you need to embrace or pattern yourself after today?

Bottom Line: Each of us can know Jesus by sharing in His life, death, and resurrection.

* What are some practical differences between knowing about Jesus and knowing Him relationally?

* How can knowing Jesus in relationship have a deeper impact on your daily life?

* What are some "ladders" (financial, reputation, security) of this world you have been tempted to, or even have tried to climb?

* How can we know what desires need to be surrendered when it comes to pursuing Jesus? How do we discern whether or not a desire we have is harmful?

* What are some previous treasures you have lost in life that you would now call "skubala" (rubbish, refuse, excrement)?

What would be your advise be to someone you see holding on to treasures of this world too tightly?

* Think about a current or past trial you have faced. How might your perspective change if you viewed that trial not as an obstacle, but as a direct invitation to intimacy with Jesus?

* Why is it important for us to pattern our lives after Jesus, not only in the moments of joy and celebration, but also in the moments of grief and hardship?

* What aspect or emotion of Jesus do you find most difficult to dwell alongside him in? Happiness? Anger? Disappointment?

How can you slow down your prayer life this week to make room for a deeper, more personal connection with Jesus?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

