

Sunday Oct 19 **Taking Jesus seriously Part 4 (Grace in the Dirt)**

The Gospel of John reveals Jesus not just as a good teacher or miracle worker, but as God himself made flesh

John 1 that says “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God

John 1:14 So the word was made flesh and made His home among us. He was full of grace and Truth full of unfailing Love and faithfulness.

God’s faithfulness means He is reliable, trustworthy, and always keeps His promises, He remains constant in His character and His commitment even when people are not.

All through John 7 and 8, people are talking about Jesus — but very few are truly listening to Him.

John 7:12-13 There was a lot of grumbling about him among the crowds. Some argued, “He’s a good man,” but others said, “He’s nothing but a fraud who deceives the people.”¹³ But no one had the courage to speak favorably about him in public, for they were afraid of getting in trouble with the Jewish leaders.

The question that runs through both chapters is this: “What will you do with Jesus?”

Truth will never leave you neutral it will always demand a choice.

Suspicion keeps you in the crowd confused and never experiencing truth, But Encountering Jesus Gives you the experience of seeing the love of the father for you in Action.

Taking Jesus seriously means more than just believing He existed;

James 2:19 You say you have faith for you believe that there is one God, Good for you! Even the demons believe that, and they tremble in terror.

Taking Jesus seriously means trusting His words enough to let them change you

Not taking Jesus seriously leads to skepticism and a faith that lacks depth, it keeps us from cultivating a genuine heartfelt relationship with God because it keeps us spiritually blind.

Jesus was always meant to be relational and experienced and encountered everyday of our lives.

Many today still live with a quiet suspicion: and it manifest itself in questioning God’s sovereignty and authority. “Can Jesus really forgive me?” “Can He really change my situation?” “Does He really care?” Does he see Me?

The Danger of Suspicion is it creates distance between you and God

Suspicion about Jesus isn’t based on truth it’s based on our own assumptions or fears.

Suspicion keeps us stuck in doubt, so we never step into faith, and we never experience true connection with God

Suspicion leaves us with is confusion and fear and the deadness of religion.

Psalms 40; 2.. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire, He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.

Grace meets us in the dirt of our lives and doesn't run away, He pulls us out, stands us back up and helps us to go forward.

The cure to get out of being suspicious about Jesus is Encounter, and experience...
Encountering Jesus and Experiencing Jesus Through relationship.

He reveals Himself through truth and Love.

John 7:17 He says "Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God.

Psalms 34;8 says Taste and see that The Lord Is Good , (come and see for yourself)

Faith doesn't grow by debate it grows by experience -walking with Jesus and trusting Him

Jesus doesn't ignore sin — He deals with it by taking it upon Himself.

Grace isn't God looking the other way — grace is God looking straight into our mess and saying, "I'll take your place."

John 8 1-11 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, ²but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. ³As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.⁴"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"⁶They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. ⁷They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" ⁸Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.⁹When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"¹¹ "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Sin always drags us out of hiding. It exposes, embarrasses, and enslaves us through shame.. But grace steps into our shame, —not to crush us, but to cover us and reminds the the accuser Of the cross..

"He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone."

One by one, from the oldest to the youngest, they dropped their stones and walked away. Every stone hit the ground that day because grace still has the final word. The cross is where every accusation dies ,where every sin is covered where every failure meets forgiveness.

**Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ... But thank God
Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood ,the forgiveness of sins
according to the riches of His grace.**

He didn't excuse her sin and he doesn't excuse ours But He offers freedom from it. Grace doesn't mean approval it means forgiveness and a call to change.

He said, "Neither do I condemn you." That's forgiveness.

Then He said, "Go and sin no more." That's freedom's call to change That's transformation.

.. Jesus chose Grace , Chose to Pardon Her , chose to pardon You and I But a pardon only matters if you walk out of the prison. Jesus opens the door, but you have to leave your chains behind and allow Grace to move you forward.

That woman came to the temple expecting to die—but she walked away free because she met Jesus the only one who can truly save.

