

NOT MY JESUS

Reclaiming the Truth, Rejecting the Idols

LESSON 2 – PERSONAL GENIE JESUS

“After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain by themselves to be alone. He was transfigured in front of them,³ and his clothes became dazzling—extremely white as no launderer on earth could whiten them.” Mark 9:2-3 (CSB)

When they came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes disputing with them.¹⁵ When the whole crowd saw him, they were amazed and ran to greet him.¹⁶ He asked them, “What are you arguing with them about?”¹⁷ Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you. He has a spirit that makes him unable to speak.¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they couldn’t.”¹⁹ He replied to them, “You unbelieving generation, how long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him to me.”²⁰ So they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, it immediately threw the boy into convulsions. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.²¹ “How long has this been happening to him?” Jesus asked his father. “From childhood,” he said.²² “And many times it has thrown him into fire or water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”²³ Jesus said to him, “If you can? Everything is possible for the one who believes.”²⁴ Immediately the father of the boy cried out, “I do believe; help my unbelief!” prayer.” Mark 9:14-24 (CSB)

What is something you really wanted in the past but, once you got it, you didn’t enjoy it as much as you thought you would?

Garage sales are full of items that, at some point, someone just had to have but are now being sold for a dollar. We often overlook the things we need because we are chasing after the things we want.

1. We treat Jesus like He exists to be our “**personal genie**,” waiting to grant us our every wish and desire.
2. We approach our relationship with Jesus as if His main **purpose** is to make us happy by saying “yes” to whatever we want.
3. When we have a personal genie view of Jesus, we’re setting ourselves up for **failure**.
When difficulty comes our way and Jesus doesn’t do what we ask Him to, or He says “no” to our wishes, it’s crushing. Why? Because we think Jesus is angry with us, ignoring us, or that we’re doing something wrong. Jesus is better than a Jesus that only exists to fulfill our desires.

The Transfiguration

1. On the “Mount of Transfiguration” is where Jesus fully **revealed** Himself to Peter, James, and John as God. Before this, Jesus had only shown the disciples glimpses of His glory through miracles and teachings.
 - A. On the mountaintop, they were given the gift of seeing Jesus’ **divinity**.
 - B. The theological term for this is the **hypostatic** union of Christ. Jesus is truly God and, at the same time, truly human. In one person, God and humanity have come together perfectly.

The Boy With An Evil Spirit

1. Jesus and the three disciples immediately came down from the mountain to an **argument** between the other disciples and the scribes. The argument was over a father's young son who was suffering violently from a spirit that was tormenting him.
2. The **four** ways this young boy was **suffering** are described in vs 18.
 1. **Throws** him to the ground.
 2. He **foams** at the mouth
 3. **grinds** his teeth
 4. and becomes **rigid**.

This represents the violent nature of demonic possession. And a severe physical and spiritual affliction.

- Not everyone suffering from seizures or a physical ailment is suffering because they have an evil spirit. However, this boy was.

3. With this young boy suffering from an evil spirit, what he needed even more than physical healing was **spiritual healing**.

Quote ~ *“When pain and suffering come upon us, we finally see not only that we are not in control of our lives but that we never were.”* ~ **Timothy Keller**

4. According to Jesus in (vs 19), the disciples still did not fully **believe** in Him because of their inability to cast out the demon.
 - A. This serves as a reminder that **faith** and **prayer** are crucial in spiritual warfare.
 - B. The man's **declaration** to Jesus in (vs 24) “I do believe; help my unbelief!”—shows his growing belief in the real Jesus.

“But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind.” James 1:6 (NIV)

- C. **Following** Jesus is about discovering who He really is and depending on Him to help in all the areas of our life where we still aren't believing Him fully.

Quote ~ *“God sees us as we are, loves us as we are, and accepts us as we are. But by His grace, He does not leave us as we are.”* ~ **Timothy Keller**

- D. **True** belief in Jesus accepts Jesus for who He is, not what He gives.

Many of us only approach Jesus when we need something, but authentic prayer is an ongoing conversation with Him. Through prayer, we get to know the real Jesus.