

Jesus Christ

Our Glorious God

Review:

- Let's take a look at a few areas of our lives that we would like to see growth in...

Evangelism	Marriage	Relationships
Worship	Finances	
Prayer	Parenting	
Personal Bible Study	Family Discipleship	

- What should we do about these things? How do we actually attain real growth in these areas?

2 Schools of thought

1. Fix the problem
2. Focus the people

Fix the Problem

Method

- Don't worry about trying to fix what isn't broken. Focus on the "felt needs." We have a list of broken stuff so pour the vast majority of our time and energy into those issues.
- Preach topically and mostly from texts that deal with these issues. Make the focus of the sermon what the person can do when they leave.
- Ministry model will focus on creating programs that will help people deal with these issues

Is this Good?

- Let's ask that same question this way. Let's say a medical doctor has a patient who states that he has frustratingly low energy levels, chronic back problems, and he is experiencing depression. This particular patient is at least 100 lb. overweight and that is likely the root cause of the problem but the doctor chooses to focus on the patient's "felt needs." So, he writes a prescription for 5 hour energy drinks, pain meds, and antidepressants.
- Patients probably will feel better (as long as the doc keeps writing those prescriptions)
- Patients will likely be very enthusiastic about the doctor
- Doctor will probably be very popular
- Is doctor helping patients get healthy?

Focus the People

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Method

- Don't worry about trying to fix problems.
- Preach through the whole Bible and go deep. The Word of God changes lives!
- Ministry model will focus almost exclusively on helping people know God through His Word that they may bring Him glory through their transformed lives.

Is this Good?

- This kind of doctor is not opposed to 5 hour energy drinks, pain meds, or antidepressants. Yet he knows those things don't bring about healing or transformation. So he chooses treatment methods that will bring about health.
- Patients don't always have exciting quick fix stories
- Doctor might not be the most popular practice in town at first
- In the long run, Doctors patients will be more healthy

Intro

- Last week we looked at Jesus Christ the Human. My secret agenda for that sermon was that you would be deeply moved by how genuinely human Jesus was. This week, I hope you will be in awe of Him as your glorious God.
- That might not be so easy though. It is always easy to relate to Jesus in a deep and meaningful way when we are discussing how Jesus became a man so that He could relate to you. It is not always easy to be in awe of something that happened 2000 years ago and something that you are very familiar with.
- Key to understanding the following events will be your ability to put yourself in the position of the Biblical characters experiencing Jesus. You must empathize with them or you will not really understand who Jesus is. Simply put, If you are not in awe, you don't get it. So try to put yourself in their shoes as they discover and experience Jesus.
- The Bible was not written so that we could know facts about God. It is written that we would know Him.

The Bible Claims His Deity:

- If the Bible is actually trying to claim that Jesus is not really God but just a really great man who teaches great principles, it has a really funny way of doing it.
- We have already covered the reality that the Bible claims that Jesus is indeed God so we won't do much more work here other than restate the verses.

Verses:

- *Isaiah 9:6--For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

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- John 1:1--*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- John 20:27-28-- *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Romans 9:5--*To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.**
- Colossians 2:9--*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,*
- Hebrews 1:2-3--*but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*
- Titus 2:11-13--*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*

The Bible Displays His Deity:

- John 14:8-11--*Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.*
- Key to understanding the following events will be your ability to put yourself in the position of the Biblical characters experiencing Jesus. You must empathize with them or you will not really understand who Jesus is. Simply put, If you are not in awe, you don't get it. So try to put yourself in their shoes as they discover and experience Jesus.
- The Bible was not written so that we could know facts about God. It is written that we would know Him.

1. Conceived of the Holy Spirit:

Verses:

- Matthew 1:18-20--*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*
- Luke 1:34-35--*And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.*

Significance:

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- Salvation is comes from the Lord.

2. Calming of the sea:

Verses:

- *Matthew 8:23-28--And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"*

Significance:

- Jesus is way more powerful than they had thought. Even after seeing Him perform some miraculous deeds. His power is really divine.

3. Raising of Lazarus:

Verses:

- *John 11:38-44--Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."*

Significance:

- Jesus has divine power, even over death
- God loves them and and will work all things for our good and His glory when they don't understand or think it possible

4. Transfiguration:

Verses:

- *Luke 9:28-36--Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen*

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One; listen to him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Significance:

- In Exodus, Moses became shiny when he encountered God on the cleft of the rock (Exodus 33).
- In Exodus, Moses met with God in tents
- Peter mistakenly thought this was like Moses and responded by offering to build these guys tents. He soon found out that Christ's radiance was not reflective but He was Himself the very "radiance of the glory of God" (Hebrews 1:3 ESV).

5. Resurrection:

Verses:

- Acts 2:32--*This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.*
- Luke 24:36-43--*As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.*

Significance:

- These guys have seen someone raised from the dead already right? Does that mean Lazarus is God too?
- Jesus prophesied his resurrection (see Matthew 12:38-40)
- The most significant thing that makes the resurrection significant to the deity of Christ is not the fact that he was raised from the dead. It is the fact that when he came back, he came back in an immortal glorified body.

6. Ascension:

Verses:

- Acts 1:6-12--*So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

Significance:

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- Again, not the first guy to be taken into heaven (think Elijah).
- Jesus foretold of His Ascension (John 6:62)
- The significant thing to understand about the ascension is that it is our glorious king returning gloriously to His glorious throne above

7. Seated on the Throne:

Verses:

- Revelation 1:12-18--*Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.*

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Significance:

- Christ reveals Himself in His glory in His glorious realm and what a sight to behold.

Application:

- That we may respond to Him appropriately
- Philippians 3:8-11--*Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*