

Date:

Text:

Story:



January 24, 2009
GETTING TO KNOW JESUS
Matthew 7:21-23

REVIEW

When Jesus walks into our lives, He gives us the same call He gave to the first disciples: **“Follow Me”**

Jesus **believes** in us – believes that when we **follow Him**, we can turn the world upside down.

Choosing to follow Jesus means **prioritizing** Him above all else.

NOT JUST A FAN-BOY – MATTHEW 7:21-23 (P. 536)

Knowing **about** Jesus is no substitute for actually **knowing** Him.

Our eternal destiny rests on a real, living **relationship** with Jesus.

Just like any relationship, a friendship with Jesus grows through:

- Spending **time** together
- Observing **character**
- **Talking** together
- Making **commitments** to each other

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION...

1. This week, I will make time every day to read about Jesus, talk to Him, and commit more fully to following Him.
2. Today or tomorrow, I will brainstorm ways I could intentionally spend more time with God.
3. I want to follow Jesus more closely, and would like to talk with a pastor about some of the things I know Jesus wants me to do.
4. I would like to talk with a pastor about inviting Jesus into my life.

1. **How did Jesus treat people in this story?**

2. **Where do I see myself in the story?**

3. **What does Jesus want to do for me?**

4. **How will I be different if I follow Jesus?**

Getting to Know Jesus

- Step 1:** Ask God for guidance.
- Step 2:** Find a story (in Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) where Jesus is doing something or interacting with people.
- Step 3:** Read the story through twice in a modern translation.
- Step 4:** Take some time to think through and answer these questions:

1. *How did Jesus treat the people in this story?*
2. *Where do I see myself in the story?*
3. *What does Jesus want to do for me?*
4. *How will I be different if I follow Jesus?*

- Step 5:** Talk to Jesus about the answers you came up with.



Sample Page

Date: 23 November 2008

Text: Luke 19:1-10

Story: Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

1. How did Jesus treat people in this story?

Jesus knew who Zacchaeus was, knew what he needed, and wanted to spend time with him (even though he was a tax collector and a cheater). Jesus was kind and didn't call Zacchaeus out.

2. Where do I see myself in the story?

I see myself as one of Jesus' disciples or one of the people crowding around Jesus, getting in Zacchaeus' way... maybe even grumbling afterward that He's paying too much attention to Zacchaeus.

3. What does Jesus want to do for me?

Jesus wants to change my thoughts about "sinners" and "the lost." He wants to give me His grace, mercy, and compassion to share with others. He wants to give me an attitude adjustment.

4. How will I be different if I follow Jesus?

I will notice those around me trying to see Jesus. I will make room for them, or even bring them to Jesus. I will see that God's agenda is bigger than my own wants and needs. I will befriend "sinners" and social outcasts.