



Part 1 The Heart of Jesus

Ever feel like this?

- I feel dry and “blah” spiritually
- I find it tough to pick up the Bible; feels like duty
- Some sins make me feel more alive than my faith
- I long to feel passion & love again
- I once felt God’s love but now He’s distant
- I am uninterested in God

Really *knowing* the passionate Jesus will help!

Misconceptions about Jesus:

- _____
- _____
- _____

The real Jesus has...

1. Passion _____

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!” Lk 13:34
“Jesus wept.” Jn 11:35 (Matt. 9:36; Mark 10:21; Luke 4:18)

Question: _____?

2. Passion _____

“He entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there” Mt. 21:12

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are. Woe to you, blind guides!” Matt. 23:15

Question: _____?

3. Passion _____

“(In Gethsemane) he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.’” Matt. 26:39

Question: _____?

4. Passion _____

“When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.” Luke 7:37-38

“Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. I tell you, her sins--and they are many--have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.’” Luke 7:44ff

(Jesus) “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 (See Rev. 2:4)

Question: _____?

Daily Meditations

Here’s a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today’s topic!

This week’s memory verse: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30*

Monday

Look back over your notes from this weekend. Do you relate to any of the feelings at the top of page one? Which ones?

How could you be changed by a rediscovery of Jesus’ passion for you?

Does this idea of Jesus as “passionate” surprise you?

What misconceptions have you had at times about Jesus?

Ask God to help you know Him better through this study. Pray that many will come to know Jesus personally, and that your own relationship with him will be revitalized.

Tuesday

Read Luke 13:33-35, just three of many verses that show Jesus' passion for lost people. According to verse 34, what had Jerusalem done to deserve Jesus' condemnation?

To what did Jesus compare his love?

What does this passage tell you about God?

What is meaningful to you about this image of Jesus as a mother hen?

Thank God for His love for you-- even when you deserved condemnation! Ask God to give you compassion for your unbelieving friends. Ask Him to help you see one small way you could show compassion for them this week!

Wednesday

What topics get you riled up? Read Matthew 23:1-14; and 23-28 to see what Jesus stood passionately against more than any other topic. Why do you suppose, of all the first century evils Jesus could have stood against (slavery, Roman oppression, etc.), legalism is the one he chose?

How would you summarize what Jesus finds wrong about the Pharisees?

Do religious leaders ever do similar things today? How?

Are you ever guilty of doing similar things? How?

What are some of the dangers of having a checklist of dos and don'ts that go beyond God's written word?

Do you know anyone embittered by religious hypocrites or empty religion? How can you reach out to them? How might the picture of Jesus in this chapter be helpful for them?

Ask God to keep you from all forms of legalism. Ask Him to give you a tender heart toward those trapped by legalism. Pray that the inside of your cup as clean is as the outside.

Thursday

One of the surprising episodes of Christ's life is in John 2:13-17. How is this different than some perceptions of Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus did this?

How could this kind of "marketing" of the temple have blocked access to God?

Do you believe there is a similar corruption in Christianity today? Why or why not?

Ask God to show you any areas of your life where you have degenerated from a true worship of God to a system. Thank Him for His grace that covers our sins and gives us power and security for free, no purchase required!

Friday

Read Mark 12:28-34. Why do you think the teacher of the law added a note about "offerings and sacrifices" to what Jesus said?

Why is wholehearted love for God more important than anything else?

Jesus often openly longed for a return of his affection. He longs for your passionate love! Do you love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength? If not, why not?

Ask God to help you love Him like this-- and thank Him for loving you in this way!

Saturday

Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!!