

## Getting to Know the Real Jesus

Because of the national holiday of Christmas, for a lot of people they will finally start thinking about Jesus. When thinking about Him their minds will picture Him as a baby. They will think about Mary wrapping Him in cloths and placing Him in a manger (Luke 2:7). For many people this is the Jesus they want. They want the baby in the manger. They want a Jesus who doesn't challenge them.

Unfortunately, many people are oblivious to who the real Jesus is. If you want to know this you have to go beyond the baby in the manger.

### I. The real Jesus is One who got angry (John 2:13-17; Mark 11:15-19).

- A. On two separate occasions Jesus went to the temple only to find corrupt men engaged in business practices.
  1. These events took place during the time of the Passover. Thousands of Jews from around the world would travel to Jerusalem to celebrate this day.
  2. Upon their arrival they would purchase the animals they needed for sacrifices and exchange currency so they could pay the temple tax.
  3. While there was nothing wrong with engaging in these business practices, the problem was they were doing them in the temple (probably in the court of the Gentiles). When Jesus saw this He became angry!
  4. The Lord was indignant that they had turned this sacred place of worship into a place a business and that they were being corrupt and dishonest (Matthew 21:13).
  5. Upon seeing all of this sin, Jesus decides to clean house (John 2:15; Mark 11:15).
- B. His actions challenge us to...
  1. Be angered by sin.
  2. Take action when we see sin being promoted (Ephesians 5:11).

### II. The real Jesus is One who lamented.

- A. We find the Lord doing this on two occasions.
  1. He wept when observing Mary and Martha grieve over Lazarus (John 11:33-35).
  2. He also wept because the people of Jerusalem rejected Him and He knew one day they would experience the judgment of God (Luke 19:41-44).
- B. His actions challenge us to...
  1. Have feelings towards the sufferings and problems of others (Romans 12:15).
  2. See people's most important need in life.

### III. The real Jesus is One who was in agony (Isaiah 53:3; Luke 22:39-44).

- A. Jesus was in intense agony while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane.
  1. This high level of anxiety is revealed in several verses (Mark 14:35; Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:44).
  2. The Father did not take the cup of suffering away from Him. Instead He gave Him the strength to endure it (Luke 22:42-43).
- B. His actions challenge us to...
  1. Understand why He came to the earth (Mark 10:45).
  2. Deal with our agony in the right way (1 Peter 5:6-7).

**Conclusion:** But is not enough to know Jesus. We also have to obey Him!