

RUSH 2010
“The Jesus I Thought I Knew”
Part 2 – Saturday AM
“I AM Way, Truth & Life”

Mike Penninga

Jesus Action Figure:

- My wife and I were on holidays in the states, and I found an incredible treasure while looking through a simple second hand store.
- I found Jesus.
- Well, actually, I found a Jesus Action Figure.
- Here’s a picture of him. (show first photo)
- Look how happy he made me (show next photo)
- Got stolen!
- Wrote email, “I’ve lost Jesus and I need him back!”

Jesus Doll:

- I borrowed one this week from my friends at Willow Park.
- This one talks!

This Weekend:

- We’re spending this weekend trying to discover Jesus.
- Not the Jesus you thought you knew, but the Jesus who really is.
- Because the turning point in our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is.

Review:

- And we began last night by talking about who Jesus said he was.
- He said he was the bread of life.
- Three challenges, three questions.
- **Challenge #1** *John 6:35* “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”
- **Question #1** “Are you hungry and thirsty?”
- **Challenge #2** *John 6:37* “Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”

- **Question #2** “Have you come to Jesus?”
- **Challenge #3** *John 6:51* “Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.”
- **Question #3** “Do you know for sure that you will live forever?”
- It’s that third question we’re going to pick up on this morning.

Text & Email responses:

- But first, want to respond to your text and email questions.
- Encourage you to continue today and tomorrow.
- And join us online at RUSH 2010 on Facebook where the conversation continues.
- Review Friday Night
- Review text questions / emails.

Video – Jesus Rant:

- I want you to watch this video that’s simply entitled “The Jesus Rant”
- I think you’ll like it!

The Jesus Rant Video

Response:

- I have watched that a dozen times, and I love it because he’s right.
- This whole thing about Jesus is ludicrous. . . unless it’s true!
- And if it’s true, it demands a response.
- You can’t just sit on the sidelines.
- Have to deal with the one question – Who Is Jesus to You?

- That’s where we are today. . .
- Open your Bibles to John 14.
- We’re looking at an incredible passage of scripture.
- So let’s ask God to illuminate His word and touch our hearts by His Spirit this morning.

Prayer.

Context:

- I'm not sure if you've sat by the bedside of a dying loved one who knows his time is short.
- If you have, you know that every final word is taken in deep to the core.
- This passage is like that.
- John 14 is a continuation of Jesus' farewell to his disciples.
- If you look back to John 13, you see we find ourselves in the Upper Room on the evening of the last supper.
- Jesus had washed his disciples feet.
- Judas had left to go and set in motion the plan to betray Jesus later that evening.
- And Jesus was now trying to comfort his disciples in light of his impending departure by explaining what will come after.
- Let's look together at John 14

Read John 14:1-11**John's Core Message:**

- If you have your own Bible and a pen, I want you to underline John 14:6.
- John 14:6 is the core message of this entire Gospel.
- If Jesus' message could be summed up in one sentence, it would be this.
- "I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life"
- That's it.
- You need look no further.

Road Signs:

- We have road signs on stage today.
- They are meant to point us in the right direction, to help us navigate our way through traffic corridors.

Thomas – Direction:

- In this passage, Thomas wanted some road signs.

- He's like "Jesus, help us out here. You talk about going away to your Father's house. You talk about preparing a place for us. You talk about coming back and taking us to be with you. And you say that we know where you are going. But Jesus, I have no idea where you're going, so how can we get there?"

Not Typical Man:

- What's interesting about this is Thomas obviously wasn't the typical man.
- Men don't usually ask for directions.
- Most of us guys would've been like "I have no idea where he's going or how to get there, but really, how hard could it be. . . I'll be able to find it."

Blessing of Wives:

- That's why God gives us wives.
- They know it's important to stop and ask for directions.
- They know it's important to pull out the map.
- They know it's important to know before you go somewhere where you're going.

Way Truth Life:

- Jesus looks at Thomas and makes this incredible statement.
- "I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the father except through me."
- He doesn't say "I know the way."
- He doesn't say "I will point out the way."
- He says "The Way" is me.
- He is the map.
- He is the path

Be The Way:

- Jesus did not come to simply explain the way.
- He came to *be* the way.
- He didn't come to just teach people about God.

- He came to *show* them God in the flesh.

Invitation to Friend's House:

- If I invited you to my friend Steve's house, and you didn't know how to get there, I would give you directions.
- I would tell you to drive across the bridge, turn on Westlake road, and then go three kilometers and it's on your right.
- If you asked someone else how to get to this person's house, and she told you to go East past Big White towards Grand Forks, you would have two conflicting directions.
- Both can not be right.
- Both may be wrong, but they can not both be right.

Follow Me:

- Now imagine if my friend Steve himself comes and says "follow me, I'll show you how to get to my house", you would be best to follow him, because that's where he lives, and he knows how to get there.
- The central truth claim in Christianity is that we do have directions, and they are not given to us by a friend of the home-owner, but by the home-owner himself.
- Not only does he claim to have the map, but he claims to be the road itself!

Not Just Teacher:

- Jesus is not just a religious teacher or guide.
- Nor is he simply the means to some other destination.
- He is the end.
- He is the goal.
- He is the one in whom God can be found.

Sets Jesus Apart:

- And again, this is what sets Jesus apart from any other religion.
- He is the only one who claims to be God with skin on.
- Christianity is the only faith that dares make the claim God came near.

Saskatchewan Farmer:

- It reminds me of the story of a Saskatchewan farmer.
- His name was Bob. . . and Bob was enjoying a quiet night by the fire inside his cozy farmhouse, while a winter blizzard blew all around him.
- As he sat in his chair reading, he heard this banging at the door.
- *Tell story. . .*

Not about Religion:

- Jesus never preached religion.
- He called people to Himself.
- It's as if he says "Start where you're at, but realize it all points to me."
- Look at what he said to the Pharisees earlier in John
- *John 5:39-40* "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life."
- Sometimes we treat the Bible as the giver of life itself, as opposed to that which points to the one who gives life.
- Jesus says I am the one who is the way.
- I am the one who is the truth.
- I am the one who is the life.

Not About Doctrine:

- Underlying this whole conversation is this important reality.
- To follow the teachings of Jesus, to be word-perfect in your doctrine, to score one hundred and one percent in theology exams, and yet to not make contact with the God-Man himself is, missing the way completely.

Michelle – UBC Vancouver:

- Story of Michelle taking CDA training at UBC Vancouver, met guy going to Vancouver School of Theology.

Pointing to Jesus:

- Friends, don't miss what Jesus was trying to communicate.
- It's about me.
- What you're looking for is me.
- What you most desperately need is me.
- There is nothing that can substitute for me.

- I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Truth

- Jesus didn't say "I hold the truth"
- He said I AM the truth.

Know the Truth:

- So when Jesus makes statements such as "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free", he wasn't talking about knowing a certain set of doctrines.
- He was talking about himself.
- You will know "me" and I will set you free!

Don't Want Truth:

- The problem is the truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear.
- I believe the reason people often reject Jesus as the truth is not because they can't get their head around it, but because they know the response that would be required of their lives.
- We do lots of mental gymnastics and back flips, trying to come to a place where we don't have to believe Jesus, for whatever reason.
- And I think much of that is because we don't want to get off the throne of our lives, and we know that's what Christ would ask of us.
- And He does. . .

No Other Way:

- The problem is if we don't bother with Jesus, there is no other way.
 - No one comes to the father, except by me.
 - He's making a very narrow claim.
 - It's pretty exclusive.
 - And that's what gets people upset.
 - But again, these are not our words, they are Jesus.
 - And if Jesus was indeed who he said he was, then only he can make these kind of claims.
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- I am the Way
 - I am the Truth
 - I am the Life

Invited to Life:

- What Jesus invites us into is not a mere existence.
- It is life.
- Abundant life.
- Better than we ever dreamed of.

Found In Him:

- But it's not found anywhere else, but Him.
 - He is the way, the road, the map.
 - He is the truth, by which everything else is judged.
 - He is the life, real, abundant, overflowing.
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- And He is what we've always been looking for.

Can't Be God?

- Maybe you've never thought of Jesus this way.
- To you, he's got a lot of good things to say, but he can't really be God.

C.S. Lewis

- Again, indulge me if you would as I share a great quote from C.S. Lewis in his book Mere Christianity.
- C. S. Lewis writes in Mere Christianity:
- "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic -- on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg -- or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the son of God: or else a madman or something worse."
- Then Lewis adds:
- "You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."
- Let me come back to the question we began the weekend with.
- Jesus looked at his disciples and said, "Who do people say I am?"
- Then he said, "What about you. . . who do you say I am?"
- How do you answer that question?
- A good teacher
- A prophet of God
- A misguided man
- Or is he actually the way the truth and the life.
- Because that's what he claimed.
- He claimed to be the bread of life, that which was to sustain us.
- And he claimed to be the only way to the father.
- The turning point in your life will be when you stop seeking the God you want, and start seeking the God who is.
- Tonight, I'm going to invite you to respond to the Jesus who really is the way, the truth and the life.

- Would you stand with me?

Pray:

Close:

Personal Reflection Questions:

Opening It Up:

- How good are you at following directions? Are you a map person or do you like to “play it by ear”?
- At what point did you understand Jesus to be more than just a good teacher? What convinced you of that?
- Put Jesus’ statement in John 14:6-7 in your own words.
- What evidence did Jesus give to back up his words?
- In light of John 14:6, how would you respond to someone who says “there are many ways to God?”
- F.F. Bruce – “All truth is God’s truth, as all life is God’s life; but God’s truth and God’s life are incarnate in Jesus.” Wrestle with that quote for a while
- Truth is not in a doctrine, but a person. Unpack what that statement means to you.
- “The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear.” Do you agree or not? Why
- What other things do we look to as the way, the truth and the life instead of Jesus?

Digging Deeper:

- John 1:1-14, Colossians 2:9, 1 John 5:20 – What do these passage reveal to us about Jesus’ true identity?
- Look at these passages as they relate to the exclusivity of Jesus. Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

Next Steps:

- If you have never read Mere Christianity, get yourself a copy and work through this amazing apologetic on the uniqueness of Jesus Christ.

Thou art the way, the truth and the life.

Without the way, there is no going.

Without the truth, there is no knowing.

Without the life, there is no living.

Thomas a Kempis