

Irresistible Jesus

Sermon Small Group Questions

Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

The Church is the hope of the world but it seems that people will walk away from this hope for the smallest of reasons. What will keep people committed to Jesus through the tough times? There is an irresistible characteristic to Jesus that will keep us committed to the body of Christ. Today we will look at this irresistible trait of our savior that compels us to run to him again and again.

MESSAGE

Irresistible Jesus

Memory Verse:

[John 11:35]

Jesus Wept

If the church is to be irresistible we must know Jesus. What is it about Christ that is irresistible?

Once Jesus was preaching and doing signs and wonders...

[John 6:4]

⁴ When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!"

But after, he begins to tell the people about the suffering and work involved in following Christ and the giving of ourselves to be in relationship with him. Many people began to leave, so the miracles and free food did not make Jesus irresistible.

[John 6:66-67]

⁶⁶ At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?"

John the Baptist, Jesus own cousin, was in prison, awaiting execution and he sends a messenger to Jesus to ask him if he is the One they have been waiting for, or should they wait for another.

[Matthew 11:4-6]

⁴ Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy^[b] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who is not offended on account of me."

What! Jesus isn't going to perform a miracle and rescue John from his prison sentence? Sometimes God seemingly underperforms given our current need. It seems that Jesus has under delivered.

Where is Irresistible Jesus?

[John 11]

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

There was an expectation connected to their message. We don't come to church without expecting to meet with God. We don't pray for healing without an expectation of a touch from the healer.

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

¹¹ ...he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

¹⁶ Then Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

What do you do when you are left to deal with your problem? What happens when you pray for your miracle and you get no response? The irresistible nature of Christ is not found in his answer to your needs or him healing your infirmity or restoring your relationship. No, the irresistible nature of Christ is much deeper than a temporary fix to our problems or needs.

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept.

The irresistible quality of Jesus lies in the revelation that when we weep, He weeps, when we rejoice, He rejoices, when we are facing our darkest hour He is there. Before we get word of the tragedy He has cried and experienced our grief and pain.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

This might seem over simplistic but let's try it. Even though Jesus could have fixed it, but he didn't, even though he could have manipulated the situation to avoid the pain or loss, he didn't, Even though it didn't play out the way we had hoped, He is still there with us in the middle of our deepest trial, He understands that it's only for a season and He weeps with us.... And maybe that's enough.

Knowing that you will in fact come through the valley of the shadow of death and Jesus will deeply feeling your pain and loss... JESUS WEEPS, with us.

This is what makes Jesus like no other friend and why you can take great comfort from the one who is comforting you!!!

THE REASON PEOPLE GET DISAPPOINTED WITH JESUS IS BECAUSE THEY MISTAKENLY CONCLUDE THAT HE HAS COME TO HEAL THE PROBLEM INSTEAD OF BE THEIR FRIEND AND WALK WITH THEM THROUGH IT ALL!

[Hebrew 4:14-16]

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses (Relate to our brokenness, feel our pain) , but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What are some trophies of redemption in your life**
- 2. Have you ever just gotten tired of church?**
- 3. What does it mean to you to be a part of the living Body of Christ?**
- 4. How will you move forward in your walk with God knowing that every trial, every dark place, in every**

diagnosis Christ is not only with you but is weeping with you?

5. What makes Jesus irresistible to you?