

sermon notes

SIMPLY JESUS

Part 1: Jesus, My Best Friend

You'll remember, friends, that when I first came to you, I didn't try to impress you with polished speeches and the latest philosophy. I deliberately kept it plain and simple: first Jesus and who he is; then Jesus and what he did—Jesus crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 MSG

In the seven weeks leading to Easter, we'll be discussing various attributes of God who became man and dwelt among us in the person of Jesus Christ. Like the Apostle Paul, we'll resolve to know nothing but Jesus – both who He is and what He did for us on the cross, for all eternity.

HE UNDERSTANDS

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 NIV

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means, "God with us."" Matthew 1:23 NIV

"That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, he would have already experienced it all himself – all the pain, all the testing – and would be able to help where help was needed." Hebrews 2:17-18 MSG

1. He understands _____

"Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" Mark 6:3 NIV

"When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." Mark 3:21 NIV

2. He understands _____

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who had been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin." Hebrews 4:15 NIV

3. He understands _____

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering." Isaiah 53:3

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5 NIV

MY BEST FRIEND

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Proverbs 18:24 NIV

1. Make Jesus your _____

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." John 15:15 NIV

2. _____ to Him.

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16 NIV

3. _____ with your life.

"But to all who receive him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them." John 1:12TLB

"Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you." Psalms 37:5 NLT

Consider and Discuss

- Last Easter, 460 people came to Harvest, and 20 people said yes to Jesus for the first time. Were you or someone you know among them? What are your plans to invite others this Easter who might consider attending only on this day?



For more resources, or to stay up to date on upcoming events visit <http://hcf.today>.

- Read John 1:14. When in the last month have you experienced Jesus as “God with skin?” Describe what you were going through, and how you were able to relate your trials as something Jesus endured.
- Read Mark 3:21 in various translations. Did it surprise you that Jesus’ family apologized to others on His behalf? When you came to Christ or in your efforts to share your faith, did you experience similar rejection?
- Read Isaiah 53:3. Lately, has it been more comforting to you that Jesus experienced physical or emotional pain? What was one moment from the service that you realized that Jesus suffered in a way that you never thought before?

Personal Challenge

- When do you typically talk to Jesus, either in a quiet time in the morning? Maybe during mealtimes? Before Bed? At church on Sundays? What kind of language do you use? What would happen if you kept in continuous contact with Him, in simple everyday language as you would use with your closest friend?
- Many people today, stay in touch with friends and family through electronic devices. This week, every time you text, email, Skype, tweet, Facebook, chat with, or call someone, first share the same thoughts with Jesus in prayer.

Notes:



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