



## LEADERS GUIDE: 11/5/17 | KINGDOM ETHIC PART 1

1. Matthew 1:21 gives Jesus' purpose statement: "he will save his people from their sins." How is this different from some of the thoughts in culture or in the church about what Jesus came to do and who he was? How does it re-frame our greatest problem and our need for Jesus?

-Outside the church Jesus is often seen as: a good teacher, a religious icon, a guy who had great ideas on morality and how we should love one another, a guy who fits in the pantheon of other religious figures like Muhammed, Buddha, or Zeus. Inside the church we can add more language like "Jesus came to show us how much God loved us," but this statement (though true) fails to include the purpose which Matthew alludes to in 1:21. Jesus came because our sin made us unlovable. Our biggest problem was that we had incurred the death sentence (Romans 6:23) and were destined to be justly destroyed forever. If we fail to see this as Jesus' primary task we will actually miss the miracle of his death, burial and resurrection. The most magnificent task Jesus accomplished (and there were many things which he accomplished!) was that he died to save us from our sin and restore us back to God. As was mentioned in the sermon, if we don't understand this rightly we will often wrestle with having right affection towards Jesus.

2. In this text (Matthew 1:2-17), Matthew ties all of the Old Testament story line to the coming of Jesus Christ. Looking through this list, which names or stories stand out to you and how do they show the need for Jesus?

-Which names/stories is your group most familiar with from this list? When we start to examine these men and women in light of Jesus we see how they failed to be who Israel hoped they would be. Abraham received the promise, but a few pages later he slept with his maidservant because he didn't trust God would bring him a son! Solomon's wisdom was admirable, but his wisdom also led him to seek joy and satisfaction outside of God (see Ecclesiastes). Boaz was the excellent kinsman redeemer, taking as a wife woman with no future, but Jesus is the one who redeemed the church out of sin to be his wife! David took his wife by taking the life of another man. Jesus took his bride by laying down his own life for her (Eph. 5:25). This question might be easy for some groups and harder for others, but as we try to see Christ in the Old Testament we will have an easier time reading these stories the way Jesus wanted us to read them (Luke 24:25-27).

3. Read Colossians 1:19-20 and Hebrews 4:15. From these texts how is Jesus' full divinity and full humanity good news for us?

-The reality that Jesus is fully God and fully man is vastly important theologically (many men have laid down their life throughout church history defending this truth), but it is also of great practical benefit to us. Because Jesus was fully God (Colossians 1:19-20) we know that his work on this earth made him even *more* worthy of honor and praise than if he never came to save us (this is a staggering truth since before redemption he was already worthy of all glory and honor and praise!). We will never get bored of Jesus. He is the most preeminent object in all history because God has made him so. Hebrews 4:15 gets at Jesus' humanity. Because he was human we know that he was tempted and tried in the same way we were, and yet he was without sin. This means that Jesus knows the pain of loss and the strength of temptation. But since our salvation unites us with Christ, we know that we also have the same power to resist sin that Jesus did! Jesus not only empathizes with us (though he never sinned), but he also empowers us in our ability to resist sin!