

Jesus Christ Superstore - Week 1

Jesus is King AND Friend - Ben Foote

April 24, 2022

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation--encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Bible References

Exodus 3:14; John 15:15, 18:2; Revelation 19.

// Message Summary

As a church, let's take a moment to celebrate God's goodness last weekend. On Easter Sunday, over 22,000 people attended church in person, over 12,000 people joined us online, and 655 people took the leap of faith and got baptized. We celebrate this because our mission as a church is to bring the awesome life of Christ to people in a lost and broken world. Baptism is a symbol that people are receiving and choosing to follow Christ. It is what we are about as a church.

This week we began a new series titled *Jesus Christ Superstore*. A superstore is a place with seemingly limitless possibilities: they sell every item you can imagine, in a shape or size that fits you just right. Superstores give us endless choice. Unfortunately, we frequently let this idea of unlimited options seep into our idea of Jesus. We want to be able to personalize Him to fit our individual styles, tastes, needs and stage in life. We want to cherry pick the characteristics of Jesus we like, and we feel like we can ignore the rest. Pastor Ben's message pushes us to challenge this mindset by listening to Who Jesus says He is: He is the King Who calls us friend. As King, He has total authority and can command us to live a certain way. But His commands are for our benefit. He wants good for us because He is also our friend.

// Biblical and Historical Context

When God appeared to Moses in the form of a burning bush, and gave him instructions to lead the Hebrew people out of Egyptian captivity, Moses asked God, "Who should I tell them is sending me?" God replied, "Tell them I AM sent you" (Exodus 3:13-14, paraphrased). By revealing Himself as 'I AM', God was communicating the ultimate statement about what Christians call His *self-sufficiency*. God exists outside of any other being or part of creation. His being is not dependent on anything else. He exists separate,

unchangeable and completely sufficient in Himself, and His character and presence is not contingent on our feelings, beliefs or desires. The translation of I AM became “YHWH”, which developed into the Hebrew word “Yahweh” and eventually the English “Jehovah”. The Jewish people consider the word “Yahweh” so sacred they do not even let it pass from their lips.

// Community Questions

1. If you could have a \$1,000 gift card to any superstore, which store would you pick and why?

// Discussion Questions

1. Together, read Revelation 19:11-16. What stands out to you?
2. What images in this passage give us an indication of Jesus as King?
3. Ben mentioned some of the versions of Jesus we commonly see: Street Preacher Jesus, Grandpa Jesus, Vote-For-Me Jesus, and Punk Rock Jesus.

What versions of Jesus would you add to this list? Describe them.

4. Recount how today (your personal day at work, college, home etc) would have been different if you had confidently walked in the truth that “Jesus is the King Who calls you friend.”
5. When we say that God is self-sufficient (“I AM”), what does that mean to you?

// Challenge

It is very likely that one part of Jesus’ nature gets more attention in your life than the other: either He is mostly King and minimally friend, or He is mainly friend and only marginally King. Which one gets the least attention?

Take time this week to focus on that area. Find a passage from the Bible that describes this part of Who He is. Pray to God to reveal Himself more and more in the area that you need to see more of Him.