

Sunday Leftovers

Liberation, Not Captivity

What's this message about?

What if Jesus isn't exactly who you think He is? Whether you've been doing the Christian thing all your life or you are considering Christianity for the first time, it is important to get this part of the story right. Over time, we all have tended to project a lot of our pre-conceived, convenient ideas of who Jesus is on Jesus. In many cases these are things that he never claimed to be nor wanted to be associated with. If we are honest with ourselves, most of what we know about Jesus is based on the opinions and teachings of others. If Christianity is about a personal encounter with Christ, then it just won't do to take someone else's word for it. If we truly seek to know the Jesus of the Gospels, then isn't it time to take a second look at the man-god who stands at the center of our faith and salvation?

Questions to ponder:

What do you think was the main point of Matt's sermon?

What do you think Jesus' primary mission was? Why?

What does the Luke 4 passage tell us about Jesus' mission? (Luke 4:16-30)

How does knowing this affect your relationship with God and those around you?

- 1. What does this say about God?*
- 2. What does this say about me?*
- 3. What does this say about how God wants me to be?*

Do something about it

Jesus' mission was to liberate you, not hold you captive. Consider that Jesus did not come with a whole new set of rules, but came to help us gain an understanding of what grace and hope is and how we too can be messengers of that grace and hope. Allow yourself to begin to be freed of that narrow view of Christian life that has been portrayed too often by churches and Christians; a view that is more focused on what we shouldn't do than what we should be doing. Open yourself up to God's Spirit and allow Him fill you and others you know with the abundant life of the gospel.

Scripture references:

Luke 4:16-30; Isaiah 61:1,2; John 3:16,17; 10:10; 13:35; 15:12; 1 Peter 3:15; Matthew 7:2; Luke 6:37