

# Readings Reflections

## I Believe in God the Son

June 10, 2007

### ...In the Name of God

Unlike any other widely followed religious leader in history, Jesus Christ made a unique claim. He declared Himself God. Not a god, not god-like, but God incarnate - the Creator of the universe in human flesh. Intellectually, that's disturbing. Spiritually, that's the most liberating thing that could ever happen to humankind.

**Mark 1:9-13** At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

**Romans 3:21-26** But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

## Reflections

You've *walked across the room* with the love of Christ. Several times, in fact, as you are committed to be open to the Spirit calling you to reach out. Perhaps one of those times it prompted a conversation from someone unchurched. They asked some questions. One area of questions was "what about Jesus?"

How can you respond to a question about Jesus in a way that makes sense to the unchurched? Jesus is a challenge to us, as He is both God and man. For today, let's look at Jesus the man; how His earthly life connects Him to all people every day.

The unchurched person may want to know how Jesus knows what their life is like. After all He is in Heaven. True enough, Jesus died for our sins, rose on the third day and now sits at the right hand of the Father, as the Apostle's Creed states. However

Jesus very much was a human, who experienced those most significant emotions that forever connect Him to each of us every day we are alive.

*"... Jesus knows what it is to be human, what we go through."*

Jesus knows the joy of marriage, as he attended a wedding in Cana (John 2). He changed water to wine, good wine, for the wedding couple to allow all the invited guests to celebrate love and the commitment of marriage. Jesus knows our joys.

Jesus knows the powerful emotion of the loss of a loved one. John 11 describes the death of Lazarus, someone Jesus loved. John 11: 35 is a short and important verse: "Jesus wept". Jesus

knows clearly the feeling of loss that we feel when a loved one is lost. Jesus knows our sorrows.

Jesus knows the feeling of betrayal and abandonment. The Crucifixion story begins with Judas' betrayal (Luke 22: 48) and Jesus feels the abandonment of His disciples (John 18:15, 25) as he is tried, tortured and crucified. Jesus knows how we feel when we feel alone in this world.

These are some examples of how Jesus knows what it is to be human, what we go through. It is important to help those who don't know Christ to understand that Jesus not only died for our sins giving us salvation, but lives in our hearts as our Lord who really knows our joys, our challenges, our sorrows, our fears. Our unchurched brothers and sisters may come to know Jesus through an understanding that He 'has been there, done that and gotten the tee shirt' as we say today.

-- Karl Berland

## Readings

### Sunday, June 10

Mark 1:9-23 & Romans 3:21-26

Jesus is God. He is our Savior, Teacher, Lord and Friend. Which of these relationship roles are the most meaningful to you today? Why?

### Monday, June 11

Hebrews 4:15

As you read this text and understand that Jesus experienced His life as you experience yours in what ways will Jesus' model of being without sin guide you as you deal with your life's issues and challenges?

### Tuesday, June 12

Matthew 4: 1-4

Our world tells us to focus on having things, feeding ourselves on the things we can buy as a means to happiness. Jesus faces this challenge from the Devil. How does Jesus' response to the Devil show you the New Way?

### Wednesday, June 13

Matthew 6:1-4

Jesus understands pride. Here he shows an example where pride interferes with caring for His people. What examples of pride can you think of that interfere with a relationship with Christ?

### Thursday, June 14

John 13: 1-17

Jesus lived in a time of servants and slaves. Servants were the meek, the humble. Here, however, we see Jesus, the Son of Man, serve His disciples by washing their feet, something done often by the servants and slaves of that time. Jesus teaches us the godliness of serving and how it is the way to act out of love for the Father. What examples of serving can you share with others to show how serving is Jesus way for us?

### Friday, June 15

Matthew 16: 21-23

Peter reacts to Jesus' explaining how He will suffer, die and be raised. Peter misses the last part, hearing only that Jesus will be taken from him, and Peter wants Jesus with him. Jesus teaches that God's plan is the plan that we should seek, not our own. How do you tell Satan to get behind you and let God's plan work in your life? How can you tell that story to the unchurched?

### Saturday, June 16

Mark 14: 32-36

Jesus knows sorrow. As He faces crucifixion Jesus the man is filled with sorrow and fear. Yet he prays that the Father's will, not his, be done. How will keeping this story in your heart help you face your trials? How can you tell this story to help others?

*Don't have a Bible? Access these scriptures at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).*