



A Sure Foundation

The beliefs that we build our lives on

JESUS THE MAN

MONTH 3

WEEK 3

READ:

Luke 13-19

Isaiah 53

If Jesus is fully God, then how can He also be fully human? And if He was fully human, then what exactly does that mean?

It means that we have a high priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses, who willingly gave up the glory of deity for the pain and disgrace and hardship of flesh. Imagine being all-powerful, then yielding that in order to become an infant who's every need must be met by another. Imagine being present at creation, of seeing man being made from dust in your image, and then submitting yourself to that creation to be spat on and ridiculed. Imagine knowing the thoughts of those around you, while holding the power of their life and death in your hands. Imagine God's perfection crashing into flesh's temptation. How difficult was it for Jesus to be both?

In what ways does Isaiah 53 emphasize the humanity of the coming Messiah? _____

What likeness does Philippians 2:6-11 say that Jesus came in? _____

How would He be like God? _____

What does Hebrews 5:1-10 tell us about the dual identity of Jesus? _____

The phrase, "Son of Man" is used 25 times in the book of Luke, always by Jesus. Perhaps it was because it identified Him as the Messiah of the prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14. In chapter 17 of Luke, Jesus repeatedly refers to the "days of the Son of Man." What was He referring to? _____

By using the words of Daniel's prophetic vision, Jesus identifies Himself as **that** Son of Man, but I think He also used the phrase to emphasize to us His humanness. God repeatedly called Ezekiel a "son of man" for that



very reason. After all, the son of a man is a man. By becoming a human like us, He is no longer the distant God that the Jews had always known. He has become a man that we can rub shoulders with, a being that not only sees suffering, but has experienced it just the same as we do. He becomes an example, because though we can't imitate God, we can imitate a man.



"Anyone who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."

Luke 14:33

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

There is a cost involved in this foundation that we build in Christ. If we do not consider what the costs may be, we will likely not see the project through to completion. As God, Jesus was well aware of what He was getting Himself into before He even came. That didn't make it easy by any means, but He was willing to pay the price, and He warns us that following Him will be costly to us as well.

But I think perhaps the greatest price we will have to pay for our faith is in watching those that we love suffer because of it. How did Noah feel when his wife and children were ostracized and ridiculed, maybe even hated because of his crazy project and warnings to repent before destruction by an unimaginable flood? Did God call Mrs. Noah too, or did she bear the scorn and hardship without a real personal understanding of God's calling? Christian martyrs who are arrested for being too bold about their faith in countries where it is forbidden understand what their faith is costing their families while they spend years in prison. Christ, even with His great compassion and love, was always costing someone something. His mother must have suffered a great deal, from His conception until His death. What was it like for His siblings? Either their brother was crazy, or was God. Either one would be tough to deal with. Why couldn't He just shut up and stop drawing so much disgrace to the family? Why did their mother seem to always hold such a favored spot for Him? How much resentment did they hold because of Him? And then there were others as well. John the Baptist suffered a dark season of doubt and then was beheaded. Even those who felt no personal need to follow God had to pay the price of His obedience. When Jesus sent the demons out of the crazy guy on the other side of the lake, He gave them permission to go into the town's herd of pigs, causing their death and a great financial loss to that town. And then there was that guy that was just an innocent bystander as Jesus struggled to carry His own cross. Without warning he found himself forced to carry a cross that wasn't his. How did he feel about that? How did Jesus feel about that?

A life of faith is costly. It involves the people around me whether they want it to or not. What it costs me is not really a cost because my greatest desire is to follow Him, and it is a privilege to do so. What it costs those that just got snagged because they happened to be nearby is the real hardship. But unless we are willing to even pay that price, then we will not be able to finish the foundation that was begun.

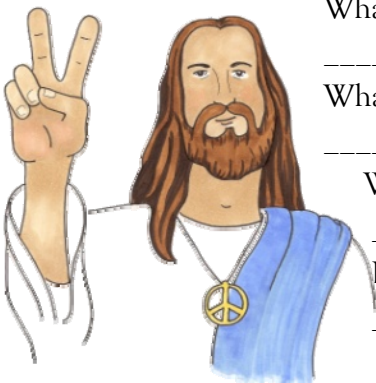
In Luke 14:25-33, what does Jesus suggest that some of the costs may be? _____

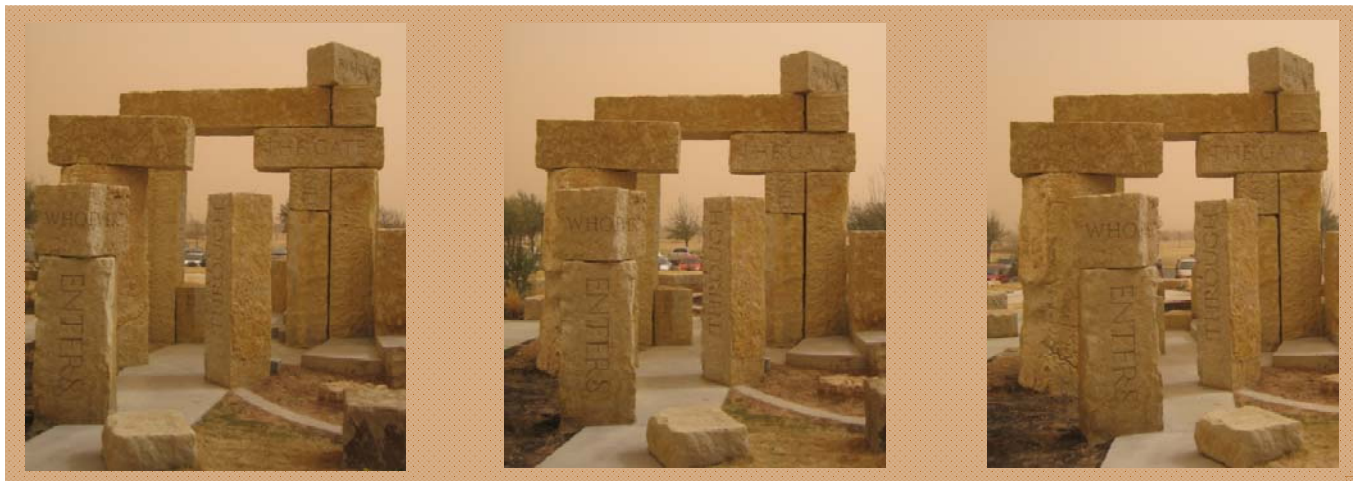
What did Jesus say that He would bring to families in Luke 12:51-5? _____

What do you think that He meant by that? _____

What does giving up "everything" include? _____

In your own journey of faith, what has been the hardest price to pay? _____





THE NARROW DOOR Luke 13:22-30

At Abilene Christian University, there is a wonderful meditation place called Jacob’s Dream created by artist Jack Maxwell. As you follow the sidewalk around and among the seemingly randomly placed stones, you suddenly come to a surprising point where the stones all line up to make a cross, a narrow pathway leading to a baptismal pool on the other side. It is a powerful visual testimony to the narrow door that Jesus talks about in Luke 13. There is a window of opportunity for us to enter through, but not everyone will find it. Some stay far removed, while others wander around in the vicinity, thinking surely that will be close enough.

Who do you think are the many who will try to enter and can’t? _____

WHO ARE THE SINNERS? Luke 15

We find the sinners gathering to hear Jesus, and the religious gathering to condemn Jesus for welcoming them. Who were the people that were referred to as “sinners”?

Who would they be in our culture today? _____

Who refused to attend the banquet in Luke 14? _____

Who refused to attend the banquet in the parable of the lost son? _____

In the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14), which man was justified before God? _____

Why does Jesus say that it is those with a low status, like children, who will receive the kingdom of God? _____

THE KINGDOM WITHIN Luke 17:20,21

What did Jesus mean when He told the Pharisees that “the kingdom of God is within you?” _____

JESUS AT THE TEMPLE Luke 19:45-48

Was Jesus acting more human, or more divine when He got angry at the temple and drove out those who were oppressing the worshippers?



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PUZZLE PAGE

M3W3 - A STARTLING MAN

Whether Jesus was seen as the Son of God, or as a prophet, or as a crazy man, there is no doubt that people found Him startling. Remove just one letter from the word STARTLING to make a new word. Remove one letter from that word to make another word, and so on until only a one letter word remains.

- People found the things Jesus said **STARTLING**.
- A new covenant was _____.
- The people were _____ at those who were healed
- The life of Jesus left a _____ of fulfilled prophecies.
- The Pharisees felt the _____ of Jesus' words.
- Jesus and the disciples would _____ their praise to God.
- Through Jesus we can find forgiveness from _____.
- We are to be clothed _____ Christ.
- _____ am redeemed!

