

## Where's Christmas?

### TODAY'S PASSAGE: *Mark 1:1-9*

### THE JESUS STORIES: *Four Things Most People Miss*

- (1) The gospels are not **BIOGRAPHIES**.
  
- (2) Each one has a unique **AUDIENCE** and **PURPOSE**.
  - ✓ **MATTHEW**:  
Written to **Jews**: *Jesus is the promised **Messiah**.*  
Matthew 1:1, 17-18
  
  - ✓ **MARK**:  
Written to **Romans**: *Jesus is the **Son of God**.*  
Mark 1:1/ Mark 1:9-11/ Mark 15:39
  
  - ✓ **LUKE**:  
Written to **Gentiles**: *Jesus was a **Man**, not a **Myth**.*  
Luke 1:1-4/ Luke 2:10 & 32/ Luke 10:25-37
  
  - ✓ **JOHN**:  
Written to **Jews** and **Gentiles**: *Jesus is **God**.*  
John 1:1-5/ John 14:6/ John 20:30-31
  
- (3) Christmas is a nice **HOLIDAY**.  
But Good Friday and Easter changes **EVERYTHING**.  
1 Corinthians 15:1-5 & 13-32
  
- (4) If Jesus isn't both my Savior *AND* Lord  
all I have is a **HOMEMADE FAKE JESUS**.

## Food for Thought for the week of January 6, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. This weekend we were reminded of how much more important Good Friday and Easter are than Christmas. Despite this, I think we can all agree that Christmas gets much more attention than Good Friday and Easter. As you look at each of these holidays in your own life, how would you describe the way you celebrate them?

What might it look like if you were to put more emphasis on Good Friday and Easter than you do Christmas?

2. Larry talked about how many people think Jesus was a good person or a good teacher but pointed out we can easily create a “homemade fake Jesus.” Jesus had a lot to say about who he is that can still help us understand him today. Go through the “I am” statements in the verses below and jot down how Jesus describes who he is.

*(New International Version)*

**John 6:35:** *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*

**John 8:12:** *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

**John 10:7:** *Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."*

**John 10:14:** *"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me"*

**John 11:25:** *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die"*

**John 14:6:** *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

**John 15:1:** *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener."*

How would you use Jesus' “I am” statements to respond to someone who says Jesus was just a good teacher?

Which of the “I am” statements is most meaningful to you and why?