

EMPTY WORDS?

THE PASSAGE:

Mark 8:27-33/ Matthew 16:13-27

TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

(1) Who do **YOU** say Jesus is?

✓ **MYTH** ✓ **MAN** ✓ **MESSIAH**

(2) Are **MY** words empty?

✓ If I call Jesus "Lord," but don't believe **WHAT HE SAYS**,
my words are empty.

EIGHT THINGS JESUS (& THE BIBLE) SAY PLAINLY, BUT SOME OF US STILL DON'T BELIEVE.

USE THIS LIST AS A MIRROR – NOT BINOCULARS!

(1) Suffering is **NORMAL**.

Mark 8:34/ 1 Peter 4:12/ 2 Timothy 3:12

(2) Heaven will make everything **WORTH IT**.

Matthew 5:11-12/ 2 Corinthians 4:17/ Romans 8:18

(3) My sins are completely **FORGIVEN**.

John 19:30/ 1 John 1:9/ 2 Corinthians 5:17/ Psalm 103:12

(4) Forgiving others is a **REQUIREMENT**, not an **OPTION**.

Matthew 6:14-15/ Matthew 18:21-35/ Matthew 7:1

(5) Salvation is only found in **JESUS**.

John 14:6/ Matthew 11:27/ John 5:23

(6) God wants my **TITHE**, not a **TIP** or **LEFTOVERS**.

Mark 12:41-44/ Proverbs 3:9-10/ 2 Corinthians 9:11

(7) Sex without the commitment of marriage is **DESTRUCTIVE**.

Mark 7:21-23/ 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

(8) A **GODLY** child is better than a **SUCCESSFUL** child.

Mark 8:36/ Mark 10:31/ Matthew 6:24/ Proverbs 23:24

Food for Thought for the week of June 30, 2019
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This weekend we heard about Jesus asking his followers, “Who do you say I am?” Our answer to this question will continue to expand throughout our spiritual journey. Read through the following verses and jot down how they expand your understanding of who he is.

(NIV = New International Version)

Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel

Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Matthew 1:21-23 - She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

John 6:35-40 - 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.³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 10:7-18 - Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

John 14:1-7 - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Colossians 1:15-20 - The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Hebrews 1:1-8 - In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷ In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire." ⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom."

In light of these passages, who do you say Jesus is?

2. Go back and review the eight things Jesus (& the Bible) say plainly, but some of us still don't believe. Is there any area in your life where you are "rebuking God?" Is there anything in your life that is turning your claim to be a Jesus follower into "Empty Words?"