



Week 1: The Days of Jesus

Week 2: The Days of the Apostles

Week 3: The Days of the Rabbis

INTRODUCTION – Snapshot of Christianity: Nationalism

A WORKING THEORY FOR THIS SERIES:

Judaism had lost its way (this is a given in the Old Testament material). Jesus came to fulfill Israel's calling. Christianity has, in many of the same ways as Judaism, lost its way. We, Jews and Christians alike, need to hear the message of Jesus afresh. Both religions have strayed at various times and in various ways, including the following categories:

- TORAH (addiction to the printed Word as a source of salvation)
- TRADITION (making human teaching equal with God's Word)
- TEMPLE (a special holy place to connect with God)
- TERRITORY (a special holy land as the place for God's "kingdom" on earth)
- TRIBE (a special holy people, set apart from other races)

**Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 3:26-29; 6:16
Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:9**

Jewish Expectations of the Messiah

Zechariah 9:9-10; Daniel 7:13-14

Isaiah 2:2-4; 11; 25:6-9; 42:1-9; 55:10-13; 56:6-8; 65:17-25

The anomaly of **Isaiah 53**...

In Jesus' day, the suffering servant was interpreted in 3 ways:

- A good man (prophet?) but not the Messiah – because of his death and defeat.
- The Messiah, yes – and the suffering describes his enemies.
- Israel as a people – who suffer on behalf of the world.

Jesus' Messianic Mixed Messages

Matthew 4:17; Luke 17:20-21

The Kingdom is not a physical THING to be pointed at, but an experience, a state of mind, a disposition of the heart. When our attitudes and actions align with God's heart, there is the kingdom.

John 6:15; 18:36; Luke 18:31-33

Matthew 13:31-32

One reason many Jews missed their Messiah is because they expected him, to usher in God's peaceful kingdom immediately and by force. Jesus' message of radically inclusive, non-violent, enemy-love clashed with the nationalistic aspirations of their day. And his message of a slowly unfolding, inside-out kingdom of love was not the timeline or the nature of the kingdom they were anticipating.

What is the lesson for Christians today?

CONCLUSION – Entering His Kingdom

Luke 17:20-21

FOR FURTHER STUDY, CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING MEETING HOUSE TEACHING SERIES...

- *From Christ To Christendom*
- *The Jesus Scandals*
- *The Irreligious Christ*
- *The Scene of the Crime*

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

- After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, encouraged, or perplexed you.
- BRAINSTORM:** Remember the working theory for this series. List ways that Christianity, in history and contemporary times, has made similar mistakes as did first-century Judaism. Talk about how we need to hear afresh the teaching of Jesus on each of these issues.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

- Let's dive into **Isaiah 52:13-53:12**. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) Why do you think a prophecy about the future accomplishment of Christ could be spoken in past tense? c) Believing that this passage points forward to Christ, for each verse discuss the parallels to Jesus.

SO WHAT?...

- Take time to pray with your Bibles open. With **Isaiah 53** in mind, pray brief prayers of praise and thanksgiving for the many things God has done for us through Christ.
- When filling your mind with the sacrifice of Christ, are there things in your life that you are more motivated to change? Like what? Pray for each other regarding these things.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, February 25 / March 4, 2007