



DUPED?

QUESTIONING THE LOGIC
OF POP SPIRITUALITY



Part 1: Why Start With Jesus?

INTRODUCTION — Where Are We Going?

- Part 2 (April 19th): ECKHART & THE LOGIC OF GOD
- Part 3 (April 26th): DEEPAK & THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS
- Part 4 (May 3rd): LIVING IN THE SPIRIT NOW
[May 10th: Mission 2 Sunday]
- Part 5 (May 17th): DID JESUS REALLY EXIST (& DOES IT EVEN MATTER)?
- Part 6 (May 24th): JESUS, CHRIST OR COPYCAT?

OTHER RELEVANT TEACHINGS...

- *The Irreligious Life* – Living a Jesus-shaped spirituality
- *Return from the Dead* – On the reality of the resurrection
- *The Secret Revealed* – Why it doesn't go far enough
- *rEVOLution* – The wisdom Jesus' love ethic
- *The Way* – The Sermon on the Mount
- *God at the Bookstore: The Pagan Christ* – Investigating the historical Jesus myth

OUR MODEST GOAL...

- Offer Christians the tools to thoughtfully and discerningly engage New Age teaching.
- Offer spiritual seekers and New Age believers a clear view of Christ.
- Offer sceptics an opportunity to investigate the reasonableness of Jesus.

DINE IN – The Logic of Starting With Jesus

- 1) To purify the voice of Christianity in our spiritual search.
- 2) His teaching is unique in its call to a relentlessly relational spirituality.
- 3) Jesus offers a thorough understanding of, unyielding critique of, and practical solution for the human capacity to turn relationship into religion.
- 4) Jesus claims to show us “God” and that God is humble, compassionate, love. (**John 1:18; 14:6-9; 1 John 4:8 & 16**)
- 5) The spirituality of Jesus is “signed” by God through his resurrection.

TAKE OUT – Can I Have That to Go Please?

TAKE OUT #1: Letting Jesus Speak For Himself

As we deepen our search for significance, meaning, and truth, one thing we must not do is force others to conform to our expectations. This includes Jesus. We must first do the hard work of trying to understand Jesus within his own context and culture and then ask what are the transferrable principles in his teaching for our lives today.

John 7:37-39

TAKE OUT #2: The Courage To Choose

When letting Jesus and other spiritual teachers speak for themselves, we will inevitably come across genuine and irreconcilable differences in their teaching. At those points we should make the courageous decision to walk one path with passion rather than live in the contradiction of syncretism.

CONCLUSION – Next Steps

- Come back.
- Join a Home Church.
- Listen to other available teachings.
- Get a Bible and read the Gospels.
- Ask lots of questions.
- Prepare to choose a path with passion.

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Up to this point, what has been your experience (or lack thereof) with the teachings of Eckhart Tolle, Deepak Chopra, Wayne Dyer, Marianne Williamson, Michael Beckwith, etc.? What are you most and least looking forward to in this series?
2. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what most encourages, challenges, or confuses you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Sometimes people wonder if it is right for any Christian teaching to confront or challenge other ideas. They feel that we should present our beliefs in a positive light but never compare or contrast them with beliefs we may disagree with. A) For each of the following passages, discuss the lessons learned regarding engaging and challenging different worldviews. **Acts 17:16-32; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; 2 John 1:7.** B) Can you think of any other biblical teaching that might offer guidance on how best to engage people with whom we disagree?

SO WHAT?...

4. Read Jesus' words in **John 7:37-39**. Take time to meditate on them, in stillness becoming conscious of the Spirit Jesus is talking about. When the time feels right, turn your meditation into prayer.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, April 12, 2009
