



## Part 3: Deepak & The Logic of Jesus

### INTRODUCTION — The Christian Dilemma

Christianity has a problem. We've claimed more than we show. We claim we are remade, reborn, renewed people. We live... like everybody else.

**John 3:1-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:3, 23 ; Ephesians 4:22-24**

In the gospels, Jesus speaks very few words regarding everyday life. No other faith has such meagre explanations of what the founder meant for his followers to do.  
~ Deepak Chopra, *The Third Jesus*

### DINE IN – What's The Deal With The Third Jesus?

#### AN ADMIRABLE BEGINNING...

- Some of Jesus' teachings run contrary to basic human nature (e.g. enemy love, dying to self, etc.).
- This suggests that Jesus was pointing the way to a renewed nature, a transformed heart, a reborn soul. This new way of being is what Jesus called "the Kingdom of God/Heaven".
- But this vision has not been fully realized within Christianity. The early church showed signs of disunity and ego-driven division from the start (e.g., see **1 Corinthians 1:1-17**, etc.).
- Hence, although some individual Christians lived out the teachings of Jesus (he identifies them as "saints") the Christian church in general did not fulfill the vision of Christ for his people.
- Today, rather than blindly trust the institutional church, we should come directly to Jesus to learn from him and become the people he has called us to be, people who live as citizens in "the Kingdom of God".

#### AN UNFORTUNATE APPROACH...

We can't trust the Jesus of the Gospels, because there are so many contradictions (e.g., contrasting his peace teachings with **Matthew 10:34**) – *that is the first Jesus*. We can't trust the Jesus of the Christian religion because the church has failed – *the second Jesus*. So now it is time to discover the mystical Jesus who will show us the way to true enlightenment – *the third Jesus* (which, let's be honest, is really just Deepak's edited version of the first Jesus).

#### AN ADVENTURE IN MISSING THE POINT...

- "Do not resist evil" was Jesus' way of teaching the non-reality of it?  
**Matthew 5:38-42**
- Jesus taught Karma?  
**Luke 13:1-5; John 9:1-3**
- God is the energy of being itself, but not personal.

THE EDITOR SHOULD BE FIRED ...

- Wrong Bible references
- Jesus said we make him complete? (**John 15:11**)
- The Way, The Truth, & The Light? (**John 14:1-10**)

### TAKE OUT – Can I Have That to Go Please?

#### TAKE OUT #1: Why Is Jesus' Affirmation So Important?

What is it about Jesus that makes his affirmation so important to New Age gurus? Why can't they just say, "On this or that point, I disagree with Jesus"? Why try so hard to find their worldview in Jesus' teaching? Is this evidence of some unique resonance with Jesus? Or insecurity among New Agers? Some desire to be at peace with Jesus? Or just the need to sell books to a Western market? Whatever the answer, how about we let the biblical/historical Jesus speak for himself.

#### TAKE OUT #2: Being Intertwined with God VS Being God

New Age spirituality encourages us to simply realize that we are God. Jesus wants us to be in God and have God in us, but to remain intertwined as lovers, not dissolved into one monad. Salvation is becoming cleansed to be made right for intimacy with the Almighty, not ceasing to be us by disappearing into the stream of life energy.

**2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; Revelation 21:22**

### CONCLUSION – Salvation Through Christ

**Acts 4:12**

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. Would you be in the "pro-Deepak", "anti-Deepak", or "Deepak-who?" camp? Why?
2. Talk about and interact with the following quote from N.T. Wright: *Don't come with a set, fixed idea of who God is and try to fit Jesus into that. Look at Jesus, the Jesus who wept at the tomb of his friend, the Jesus who washed his followers' feet, and you'll see who is the true God.*
3. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what most encourages, challenges, or confuses you.

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

4. Read **John 14**, a passage that covers a portion of Christ's teaching given to his disciples at the Last Supper. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) Both Deepak and Eckhart teach that Jesus claimed to be the way, the truth, and the life as an example of what we all should be able to claim. Why do they tend not to quote the rest of the verse? How does the full text support or counter their interpretation? C) What do you think might have been Jesus' tone of voice (and facial expression and body posture, if you like) in **verse 9**? D) Jesus invited his disciples to believe in him directly and/or based on the evidence of his miracles. Today, we cannot directly verify all of Christ's miracles, so how can we be evidentialists when it comes to believing in Jesus? Is our faith based on evidence or is it blind? E) What do you think are the "greater works" that Jesus says his disciples will do? F) What do you think it means to pray "in the name of Jesus"?

#### SO WHAT?...

5. Take time to read **Matthew 7:13-14; John 1:18; 10:7-9; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5-6**. How can Christians have the boldness to affirm and proclaim the unique reality of Jesus without becoming or appearing arrogant, exclusive, and judgemental?
6. For further investigation – check out one of my intellectual mentors (Greg Koukl) in dialogue with Deepak Chopra on a Christian interview show at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-3190951131579891616>.

**Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, April 26, 2009**