



DUPED?

QUESTIONING THE LOGIC
OF POP SPIRITUALITY



Part 6: Jesus – Christ or Copycat?

INTRODUCTION — “Mind The Gap”

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried...

Insert Teachings Here! →

The same phenomenon of ignoring Christ’s teachings while focusing on ever-increasing theologically complex identity debates continues in the Nicene Creed (325 AD), the Calcedonian Creed (451 AD), the Athanasian Creed (500 AD), and so on. This has left the church vulnerable to corruption from within (orthodox belief wrapped in heretical living) and from without (setting the stage for the historical Jesus debate to focus on the story arc of Christ’s life while ignoring the first-century Jewish root system behind his teachings). By ignoring the teachings of Jesus in this debate, skeptics are just following the example laid down by the institutional church. It is time for the church to repent.

- **Matthew 5 // Luke 6 = Loving unconditionally, creatively, and non-violently**
- **Matthew 12 // Mark 2 // Luke 6 = Rethinking the Sabbath**
- **Matthew 13 // Mark 4 // Luke 13 = Mustard Seed as Kingdom**
- **Mark 7 = Trouncing Tradition and Trumping Torah**
- **Mark 12 = The role of Jesus to his people**

Parallelomania

1. Both Lincoln and Kennedy were concerned with civil rights.
2. Lincoln was elected President in 1860. Kennedy in 1960.
3. Both were slain on a Friday and in the presence of their wives.
4. Both were shot from behind and in the head.
5. Their successors were both named Johnson.
6. Andrew Johnson was born in 1808. Lyndon Johnson in 1908.
7. John Wilkes Booth was born in 1839. Lee Harvey Oswald in 1939.
8. Lincoln’s secretary was named Kennedy. Whereas Kennedy’s secretary was named Lincoln.
9. The names Lincoln and Kennedy both contain seven letters.
10. Lincoln was shot in the Ford’s Theatre. Kennedy was shot in a Ford car (a Lincoln!).

THE POWER OF THE OVERALL EFFECT IS ENHANCED IN THREE WAYS:

- Some parallels do exist...
- Some are exaggerated in significance...
- Some are untrue...

- Jesus & Mithra...
- Jesus & Attis...
- Jesus and Dionysus (Bacchus)...
- Jesus & Krishna...
- Jesus & Horus...
- Jesus & the number 12...
- Moses & Sargon of Akkad...

Exodus 20:1-17

CONCLUSION – Love over Law, Relationship over Ritual

Matthew 12:7

Next week is “Hot Seat” Sunday. Send questions to teachingteam@themeetinghouse.ca.

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Take time to review this week’s message. Talk about what most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Remember that proponents of the Jesus Myth focus on the story arc of Christ’s life and tend to ignore the undeniable evidence of his revolutionary teaching as arising out of and reacting to a thoroughly Jewish context. Let’s examine more examples of Jesus’ teaching. For each passage, answer the following: a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) What is the main point Jesus is making? c) What about this passage shows signs of arising out of Judaism rather than just being a universal maxim of pagan origins? e) What are the transferable principles for us in our situation today?
 - **Matthew 23; Mark 7:1-13; Luke 4:14-30; 13:18-19**

SO WHAT?...

3. What teaching of Jesus (from these or other passages) do you think Christians in general need to do a better job at applying today? What teaching do you most struggle with personally? Why? Pray for the body of Christ as a whole, The Meeting House specifically, and each other, that we might represent Christ and his Gospel well in these areas.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, May 24, 2009