

Begin Anew

Believing in Jesus

October 21, 2018

1. "Jesus is the center of our faith." *Palmer Becker*
2. *Where did He come from?*
3. *"Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor" (Lk. 7:22).*
4. *Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law; but God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power (Acts 2:22b-24).*
5. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (Jn. 1:14).*
6. *How did he live?*
7. *Jesus is God-in-flesh-and-blood.*
8. *After his suffering, he (Jesus) showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3).*
9. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9bKjOmBLb4>
10. *Jesus shows us the wisdom of God.*
11. *If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him (Jas. 1:5).*
12. *Jesus shows us the nature of God.*
13. *Whoever has seen me has seen the Father... I always do those things that are pleasing to him (Jn. 14:9; 8:29).*
14. *Jesus shows us the purposes of God.*
15. *Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he (God) will give you everything you need (Mt. 6:33, NLT).*

16. *Why did he come?*

17. Jesus is God with us, come to show us God's love, save us from sin, set up God's kingdom, and shut down religion, so that we can share in God's life.

18. 3 ways we can think of kingdoms:

1. Satan's kingdom
2. Geo-political kingdoms
3. God's kingdom

19. 3 ways we relate to these kingdoms

1. As people who do not accept Jesus' leadership in their lives.
2. As people who accept Jesus' forgiveness but not his leadership.
3. As people who accept Jesus' forgiveness and leadership.

20. Who are you?

21. "God, I have sinned by turning away from you and trying to run my own life. Separated from your love, I am shaped by the powers of greed, lust, and violence that bring chaos to our world. Forgive my sin and let me begin anew. Thank you for your Son Jesus, who defeated Satan and brought the kingdom of God to reality. Give me power to live like Jesus – loving my enemies, sharing my possessions, serving others, caring for creation, and sharing the good news of your forgiveness and genuinely good leadership. I commit myself to the church as the body of Christ. I give my allegiance to Jesus and his way of forgiveness above every other loyalty. Amen."

22. *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!* (Ps. 139:23-24).

23. You are in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus.

24. *Be confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus* (Phil. 1:6).

25. You are not alone: the church is the body of Christ: each part carrying each other's burdens (Ga. 6:2) and each part working together to do what me or you - cannot do alone (1 Cor. 12).

26. Take home Q. What do the people in your life think and say about Jesus? How would you answer a friend who asked you the question, "Who is Jesus?"