

Word-On-The-Street Jesus

Matthew 11:1-9; 16-19; 14:1-4 NIV

1. THE WORLD IS FULL OF CHILDISH CRITICISMS OF JESUS.

Matthew 11:16-19 *To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and **calling out to others**: ‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance;’ ‘We sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and **they say**, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and **they say**, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.*

2. THE IDENTITY OF JESUS IS OFTEN MISTAKEN.

Mt. 14:1-2 *At that time Herod the tetrarch **heard the reports about Jesus**, and he said to his attendants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him.”*

3. THE GOOD WORKS OF JESUS ARE OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD.

Matthew 11:2-6 *When John, who was in prison, **heard about the deeds of the Messiah**, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “**Go back and report to John what you hear and see**: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”*

4. THE MESSAGE OF JESUS IS OFTEN MISREPRESENTED.

Matthew 11:7-9 *As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “**What did you go out into the wilderness to see?** A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.”*

THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS

HIS IDENTITY: GOD IN THE FLESH.

Colossians 1:15-20 *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

HIS GOOD WORKS: HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR US.

Phil. 2:6-11 *(Jesus), being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

HIS MESSAGE: ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH FAITH.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*