

Ministry and Philosophy of Jesus, Part 1

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I. Introduction.

- A. As you move through life, always keep a finger in the Gospels.
- B. God has an incredible investment in Jesus Christ—much preparation went into His arrival showing that He is not in a hurry. We often overlook God's investment in our own lives. (Luke 1:1-3:8)
- C. All of our experiences have happened for a reason. (Deuteronomy 8:1)
- D. Text: Luke 4.

II. No one will ever be strong in Jesus Christ without a strong foundation regarding his identity in Jesus.

- A. In Jesus Christ believers are significant.
- B. Jesus found out who He was through obedience to Scripture and submitting to the will of God.
- C. Jesus also unconditionally accepted the will of God. We have to accept that some time we will be led into difficult places.
- D. Steps in discerning God's will: hearing the inner witness of the Spirit of God, seeking godly counsel, going through trial and error, recognizing that the ministry must be done out of weakness and not strength. (Philippians 4, II Corinthians 13:4)

III. To be strong in Jesus, we must settle our reputation in Jesus.

- A. Jesus preached to Jews that the Gentiles would be sought after, angering the orthodox Jews there. (Isaiah 61:1-2)
- B. The Bible teaches that we are to have a good reputation with others. (Proverbs 22:1, I Timothy 3:7)
- C. However, we speak the truth in love with a willingness to surrender our reputation. (Luke 14)

IV. To be strong in Jesus, we must have authority.

- A. This is not a title or rank. (Matthew 23:8)

B. Authority in the Scriptures is won by showing compassion for needy people.

C. An effective witness for Christ reads broadly. We must be knowledgeable in a variety of areas.

Application questions:

1. What areas of your identity do you struggle? How is Jesus a model to address these areas?

2. How do you explain the tension between seeking a good reputation and being willing to forgo one's reputation to be strong in Christ?

3. Who has modeled biblical authority for you? What made their example special?
