

Series: I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist

Lesson 5: "If Jesus' Words are Truth, We Have to Make a Choice!"

***Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.**



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What are some of the best choices you've made in your life? What made them such good choices? What are some of the worst choices you've made in your life? What made them such bad choices?

Transition: Man's free will is a great gift. We love to make our own decisions. We hate people telling us what to do. We refuse to be puppets or slaves. However, our free will is also the most dangerous of all our gifts. We can be manipulated by emotions, convincing arguments, relationships, a hunger for self-fulfillment and many other things that will cause us to misuse our free will and end up where we did not want to be. Somewhere in life we have to decide if Jesus' Words are truth. We have to make a choice and that choice will guide every step we take in life. It will firmly establish who we really are, whose image we have become.

Bottom Line: Do you have the extreme faith it takes to be an atheist or an agnostic? It's a choice you have to make and not choosing is choosing, it's choosing to reject Jesus truth. Apathy is rejection.

LESSON PLAN

Read Matthew 5:18-20

1. What is the TRUTH about what God did NOT send Jesus to do?

2. What is the TRUTH about what God did send Jesus to do?

3. How did Jesus' life fulfill the writing within the Law and the Prophets?

The Old Testament writings all pointed to the time when God would be everyone's God and every ethnic group would become His people and we would dwell together as one. Some gave specific places, times, dates, undisputable information about Christ many hundreds of years before He was born. Even some of Jesus' words were recorded before He came to be. The way He would live and die for us was written. Jesus was the proof that these men were

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writing foreknowledge from God, so the world would know the truth when Jesus' lived, died and rose from the dead as promised.)

Application: Pass out a concordance and have someone count how many times Matthew records Jesus saying, "I tell you the truth." ____ Now count John's record of Jesus' saying. ____

Read Matthew 13:10-17

4. Why did Jesus say He spoke to the people in parables?
5. Why did God have Isaiah predict these who searched and didn't understand would fail to grasp Jesus' teaching?

Question: What are some of the ways people's hearts are too hardened to believe that Jesus is the source of truth?

Question: How can we reach people with hardened hearts?

6. Who is called blessed by God and why?

Those whose eyes see and whose ears hear. They are blessed because they understand what the prophets predicted but couldn't fully understand and what righteous men longed to grasp but couldn't at that time. Part of this refers to the Old Testament era before Christ's coming and proving the prophets predictions and recorded events before they took place. However, it also would refer to the religious Jews who could not see and understand. The simplicity of the parables was too trivial for the scholars and great religious men to accept as having the full weight of truth. They had already determined what Messiah would look like and talk like and it was not anything like this Rabbi filled with stories!)

Question: How could this blessedness apply to us today?



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We have not seen and yet we believe. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" John 20:29. Our sight is based on the evidences God supplied so our faith was not a wish but a solid foundation, even though we have not seen Jesus physically, we have understood and seen Him spiritually.)

Read John 14:1-14

7. What promise does Jesus make to the disciples who are troubled that Jesus has told them He is going to die?

8. How does Jesus tell Thomas they will find the way to heaven?

Jesus is the way, the Truth and the life. He goes on to say that NO ONE can come to the Father in Heaven except they follow Jesus as Lord, come THROUGH Him. No one is about as exclusive as word as Jesus could use to define the road to heaven's roadblock! It is critical to know that the most heartless thing we can do on earth is to refuse to tell people about the path that openly leads to God through Christ. That is NOT exclusive, hateful, bigoted or any other label the world hangs on it. To show people the road to eternal life is to give them the greatest gift of love in all creation!)

Question: If telling people Jesus is the only way, yet the greatest way, is the gift that lasts forever and cures death and disease once and for all, then why is evangelism such a neglected focus in most churches?

Question: What would it take to better share the truth with people who do not understand it?

9. What does Philip ask of Jesus?

10. What is Jesus response to Philip?



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When the church began, the Apostles would have the power of the Holy Spirit fall upon them and do incredible miracles among the people giving signs and miracles to all who were there. Jesus gave them the miraculous heavenly abilities He had to heal the sick, to reveal the Truth of God's Word in the New Testament writings, to communicate in all known languages they encountered, even the ability of the apostles to lay on hands and impart the ability to do miraculous gifts as the church was being established in the first century and the New Testament written.

Question: We have the testimony of the prophets and the apostles and the miraculous signs and wonders that God did through them as they were messengers of the one Truth that transcends time. Why isn't that truth obvious to many people today?

People believe more in living for this life than for the next. People believe we have to find our own way. Some believe there is no hope beyond what we are living now. Others think science will find the miraculous cure for aging and all disease. Many people believe there is no such thing as absolute truth. Still others simply do not want to bother searching for answers. They believe no one can really know and therefore if there is a good God, they will be okay. Sadly, that is not acceptable to our Creator. It calls Jesus' truth a lie.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5

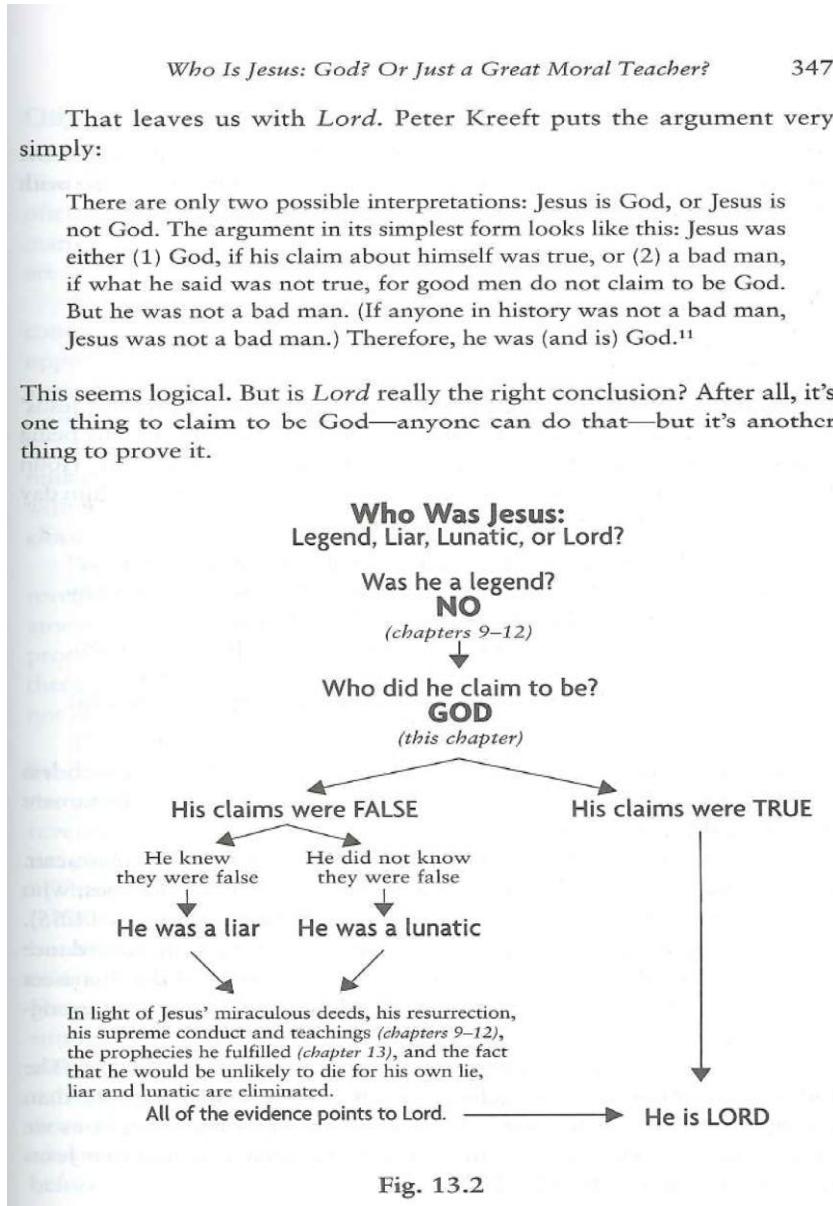
11. Why is Timothy and all preachers charged with an urgency to preach in a way that teaches, corrects, rebukes and encourages people?

Question: What are some of the ways we know this is true today? Do you think this applies to all Christians or just preachers? Why or why not?

Final Question: What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?

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Taken from *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist* by Norman L. Geisler & Frank Turek