

THE FIGURE OF CHRIST

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE MEDITATION

This is the fourth meditation and is presented on the second day. The objectives are to:

- Know Christ; not simply as an historic figure of twenty centuries ago, but as a living presence in our daily lives;
- Help us to understand His divine nature and the purpose of our salvation;
- Help us to see Christ as our Savior, brother, and friend;
- Encourage us to respond to Him in faith, love, and obedience

This meditation answers the question: “Do you **know** Christ, or do you only **know about** Him?” The candidates need to become aware of the difference between the human Jesus and Jesus, the divine Son of God; the Savior. We speak of His compassion, intelligence, kindness, and understanding of human need; however it is more important to reveal His uniqueness as the One sent from God to live among us and to give His life upon the cross for our sins and salvation.

The meditation seeks to evoke a response of faith in the hearts of the candidates toward the commanding figure of Christ. They are confronted with Christ’s invitation to believe in Him, and the divine purpose for which He came into the world.

An appeal is made for faith through the power of the Holy Spirit to accept His promise, act on His love, make Him Lord of our lives, and rededicate ourselves to becoming the person he wants us to be. Christ is a living reality; we can live in Him to the glory of God.

Time objective: Should not exceed 7 minutes.

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OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION

This meditation can help the candidate see the difference between an “intellectual” faith versus a living, personal faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

II. DO YOU KNOW CHRIST OR DO YOU ONLY KNOW ABOUT HIM?

III. WE CAN KNOW CHRIST AS A LIVING PRESENCE

- A. Christ is different from historical figures**
- B. Many do not recognize the Risen Lord**
- C. We can know Him today**

IV. WE KNOW ABOUT CHRIST THROUGH HISTORY AS GOD AND MAN

- A. Christians today can understand that Jesus is God**
- B. His life gave evidence**
- C. His words gave eternal life**
- D. He was fully human and fully approachable**

V. WE CAN KNOW ABOUT CHRIST AS SAVIOR

- A. Christ alone as the God-man could serve as mediator between God and man**
- B. God and mankind were separated by sin**
- C. Christ willingly gave His life to bring mankind back to God**

VI. WE CAN KNOW CHRIST AS LORD

- A. God the Father declared Christ Lord of all**
- B. God reconciled all things to Himself in Christ**
- C. Christ is alive and with us**
- D. We can seek Him and meet Him in a new way**

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SAMPLE MEDITATION

(The sample may be used as the Meditation itself, or as a commentary on the outline.)

Jesus is different from every other historical figure. “He lives” (2 Cor. 13:4.) This is the message of the resurrection; therefore we can know Him today (know in the Scriptural sense; that is, have a personal relationship with Him.)

Yet the truth is that the majority of us do *not* really know Him. As John the Baptist declared: “There is one among you whom you do not recognize.” (John 1:26) We are like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus; we do not recognize the risen Lord, the God-man, Who is with us. We seek to know Him today as a Person who invites us to a personal relationship with Himself. He is both God and man.

JESUS IS GOD

Jesus claims to be God: “I tell you most solemnly, before Abraham ever was, I AM. (John 8:58). He is the “I AM” of the Old Testament. Those who were present understood His claim to be God. By His way of life, by His teaching, by His miracles (signs), He gave evidence that He is God. Either He is who He claimed to be or He is the greatest imposter that ever lived. Now as then, when reflecting upon the events of His life, especially the resurrection, one understands and believes Jesus is God.

Simon Peter replies, “Master, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words that give eternal life, and we believe them and know You are the Holy Son of God” (John 6:68, 69.)

JESUS IS MAN

Jesus is not a distant God, more feared than loved. He is Emmanuel (God with us) because He is one of us. He is as fully human as any of us. He is like us in all things except sin.

(Don't cite the references)

- He worked and grew tired in Samaria (John 4:5,6)
- He was disappointed with Philip (John 14:9)
- He was angry in the temple (John 2:13-17)
- He suffered in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42)
- He wept for Lazarus (John 11:36,37)
- He empathized with the widow (Luke 7:11-17)
- He understood the adulteress (John 8:3-11)
- He was firm with Pilate (John 18:33-40)
- He was gentle with children (Luke 18:15-17)
- He asked for support in His agony (Matthew 26:36-41)

JESUS IS SAVIOR AND LORD

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (1 Tim. 2:5, 6) Because He is both God and man, He can be the one mediator between God and man. He alone makes possible our return to the Father. God was on one side and mankind on the other. Christ Jesus, being both God and man, is the mediator who brought the two together by giving His life.

Your attitude should be the same as that shown to us by Jesus Christ, Who though He is God, did not demand or cling to His rights as God, but laid aside His mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming as a man. He humbled Himself even further, actually dying a criminal's death on a cross. Yet it was because of this that God raised Him up to the heights of heaven and gave Him a name which is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:5-11)

Jesus is Lord because God has reconciled all things to Him. (Col. 1:18-20) He is the center of our existence. (Col. 1:20, 21) Jesus lives! He is God with us and in us. Because He is with us, we can approach Him with confidence. We can relate to Him in a fully human manner. Jesus invites us to encounter Him in a new way today.