

The Man, They Myth, The Legend

1. As a parent, we're continually learning about _____.
2. Becoming like Jesus is God's goal for _____ of His people – children and parents alike.
3. You can make a lasting difference for _____ in the life of your child.
4. We live in a society that is increasingly _____ – and even hostile – towards Christianity.
5. How do we nurture the next generation? By talking to our kids about Jesus.
6. We need to make _____ for things that matter eternally.
7. It is _____ who can make any seed sprout.

The Identity of Jesus

8. There are so many _____ ideas today of who Jesus is.
9. As parents, we tend to focus more on His _____ than His identity.
10. Jesus' identity is _____ to everything we believe as Christians.

Three Parental Keys

- (i) Establish the importance of Jesus' identity _____.
- (ii) Make it clear that Jesus' identity isn't a matter of _____ belief.
- (iii) Emphasize how Jesus' identify makes Him _____ in our lives today.

Myth?

11. _____ % of people in England don't believe Jesus existed.
12. To establish a person existed, historians like to have _____ evidence.
13. Historians also look for _____ by way of sources that are:
 - a. Independent,
 - b. Dated close to the time of the person, and
 - c. Written by disinterested authors.

Where is this from?

14. We don't even have many first-century writings about _____ of Roman Palestine.
15. Only one author from that time whose writings we still have: _____.
He mentions Jesus twice.
16. If you expand by 30 years, we find _____ mentions of Jesus by Roman writers.
17. Paul's writings are considered the _____ surviving Christian texts.
18. Paul's writings are letters – not _____.
19. Passages showing Paul knew Jesus was a real human being, not simply a spiritual being:
 - Gal. 4:4; Rom 1:3 (Jesus born of a woman),
 - Gal. 1:19; 1 Cor. 9:5 (Jesus had human brothers),
 - 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 4:10; Gal. 1:1; Col. 1:22 (Jesus died),
 - 1 Cor. 15:4 (Jesus was buried),
 - Rom. 1:4, 1 Cor. 15:14, Phil. 3:10 (Jesus rose after He died).
20. Most of what we _____ about Jesus' life comes from the Gospels.

Opener

- If you were a historian who wanted to confirm that Sir John A. McDonald existed, what kinds of evidence would you look for?

Going Further

- What kinds of evidence would you look for if you wanted to confirm that Jesus existed? What would you hope to find?
- Some people think there's not enough evidence to believe that Jesus existed because we don't have many early writings from non-Christians that mention Him. Would you expect there to be a lot of early non-Christians writings about Jesus? Why or why not?
- There are people who believe Paul thought that Jesus was only a spiritual being and never existed as a human on earth. Is that true?
- Do you think someone who doesn't believe all that the Gospels tell us about Jesus should also think Jesus didn't exist? Why or why not?

Application

- If someone were to tell you that (1) no first-century secular evidence exists to support the actuality of Jesus and (2) the earliest New Testament writers (Paul) don't know about Jesus' life . . . how would you respond?

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1. As a parent, we're continually learning about ourselves.
2. Becoming like Jesus is God's goal for all of His people – children and parents alike.
3. You can make a lasting difference for good in the life of your child.
4. We live in a society that is increasingly skeptical – and even hostile – towards Christianity.
5. How do we nurture the next generation? By talking to our kids about Jesus.
6. We need to make space for things that matter eternally.
7. It is God alone who can make any seed sprout.

The Identity of Jesus

8. There are so many diverse ideas today of who Jesus is.
9. As parents, we tend to focus more on His teachings than His identity.
10. Jesus' identity is foundational to everything we believe as Christians.

Three Parental Keys

- (i) Establish the importance of Jesus' identity first.
- (ii) Make it clear that Jesus' identity isn't a matter of blind belief.
- (iii) Emphasize how Jesus' identity makes Him relevant in our lives today.

Myth?

11. Forty % of people in England don't believe Jesus existed.
12. To establish a person existed, historians like to have physical evidence.
13. Otherwise, historians look for written references by way of sources that are:
 - a. Independent,
 - b. Dated close to the time of the person, and
 - c. Written by disinterested authors.

Where is this from?

14. We don't even have many first-century writings about rulers of Roman Palestine.
15. Only one author from that time whose writings we still have: Josephus.
He mentions Jesus twice.
16. If you expand by 30 years, we find three mentions of Jesus by Roman writers.
17. Paul's writings are considered the earliest surviving Christian texts.
18. Paul's writings are letters – not biographies.
19. Passages showing Paul knew Jesus was a real human being, not simply a spiritual being:
 - Gal. 4:4; Rom 1:3 (Jesus born of a woman),
 - Gal. 1:19; 1 Cor. 9:5 (Jesus had human brothers),
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 - 1 Cor. 15:4 (Jesus was buried),
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20. Most of what we know about Jesus' life comes from the Gospels.

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- What kinds of evidence would you look for if you wanted to confirm that Jesus existed? What would you hope to find?
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- There are people who believe Paul thought that Jesus was only a spiritual being and never existed as a human on earth. Is that true?
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Application

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