

May 17/18, 2025

"Why is Jesus Confusing?"

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**Beyond the
Weekend**

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Matthew 4:23-25](#) | Why is Jesus Confusing?

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. Matthew 4:23

Jesus arrives as the long-awaited Savior, but he is not the sort of deliverer the people expected or longed for. Many long for Jesus to heal, and many more desire Jesus to free the Jews from the oppressive grip of Rome. Crowds surround Jesus with great excitement, believing that he is the answer to what they believed were their biggest problems. Jesus came to set people free, but not in the manner they expected or longed for. Jesus focuses on preaching and teaching, revealing the nature of God's kingdom and what it means to live as God desires.

Just like those in Jesus's day, we can have wrong expectations of Jesus. We can expect (or at least long for) Jesus to rescue us from any pain or discomfort in this life. Or we can expect a certain sort of ease or even prosperity in following Jesus. But that is not what Jesus promised or set out to accomplish. Rather, Jesus came to set us free from sin and empower us in a new way of life. The best way we can learn and better understand what this way of life entails is to sit under Jesus's teaching and apply his teaching to our lives.

TODAY: Immediately following [Matthew 4](#) is Jesus's core teaching called the Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 5-7](#)). Slowly read through or listen to the Sermon on the Mount. As you do so, ask yourself, "Based on Jesus's teaching in this sermon, what sort of life does he want me to live?"

Day 2 [Mark 1:40-45](#) | The Ministry of Jesus

Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Mark 1:43-44

Jesus continues ministering to people, and his popularity swells. Specifically, people are intrigued by his ability to heal, and many seek him out for such healing. Consequently, the crowds begin to grow, even disrupting Jesus's travel and ministry efforts. While healing was a vital part of Jesus's ministry, the healing acts were illustrations of his teaching. The kingdom of God is at hand. Through Jesus, the dead are raised to life, and new life is found. So, though Jesus cares for people's bodies, he cares even more for people's souls. Spiritual reconciliation is a higher priority than physical healing.

We, too, can become so captivated with temporary issues that we miss what matters most. Though our physical issues matter, our souls and hearts matter more. Jesus's priority is to reconcile people to God and to each other,

which should be our priority and desire as well. Sharing our faith in Jesus is essential in the Christian life. As followers of Jesus and ambassadors of the message that Jesus saves, we are to point people to him, knowing that he offers us eternal life. He is the answer to our deepest needs.

TODAY: Who has God placed in your life that needs to hear the good news of Jesus? How confident are you in sharing your faith with others? Join us on May 29 for a one-night class about how to share your faith. This evening will serve as a solid primer or refresher for anyone looking to better point others to Jesus. Learn more and sign up here: <https://my.adabible.org/registration/sharingyourfaith2025>.

Day 3 [Mark 3:22-27](#) | The Message of Jesus

So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.” Mark 3:23-24

Jesus communicates with parables because they both reveal and conceal. On the one hand, parables reveal information about the kingdom of God to those who are interested and willing to listen well and think deeply. On the other hand, parables conceal information from those who are unwilling to listen or think deeply. Jesus challenges his listeners to have eyes to see and ears to hear ([Matthew 11:15](#)). Jesus knows those who spend time with his words will grow to understand his teachings.

Avoiding distraction poses a great challenge for us to follow Jesus and thrive as his disciples, especially in our fragmented, digital age. More information and entertainment are available to us than ever before. We can easily drown in information and entertainment overload. Distractions like mindless scrolling on our smartphones, excessive time on social media, binge-watching shows or just unnecessary notifications can be a major hindrance to following Jesus. Whatever the culprit, we can become distracted and miss the deeper spiritual life Jesus offers. Living intentionally requires conscious thought, discipline and self-control.

TODAY: Silence and solitude can be helpful disciplines for overcoming the noise and distraction of this world. If we are going to grow, we need to spend undistracted time with God and his Word. If you would like some help thinking deeper about God and his Word, especially this sermon, check out our latest episode of the [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#) today.

Day 4 [Mark 3:22-29](#) | The Identity of Jesus

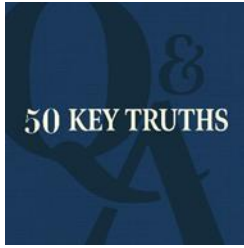
Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin. Mark 3:28-29

Jesus's popularity continues to grow. Religious leaders wonder, “What is happening with this miracle worker in Galilee?” and send a delegation from Jerusalem to get to the bottom of it. These religious officials eventually accuse Jesus of being possessed by Satan. Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit since his baptism, informs them that all sins can be forgiven except for “whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit.” They have attributed God's work to Satan and denied the Savior God sent to rescue them.

Many people have struggled with the question of whether or not they have committed the unpardonable sin. Jesus makes this assertion to individuals who denied Jesus's Holy Spirit-empowered ministry and claimed Jesus was possessed by (and working for) the devil. They denied Jesus's identity as God and refused to accept Jesus as the Savior he is. This is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. The only “unpardonable” sin is to reject the Savior. We can only be forgiven if we accept the forgiver.

TODAY: There is forgiveness and new life in Jesus's name. Jesus even promised this in his response to the religious leaders: “People can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter” ([v. 28](#)). If we confess our sin, God is faithful to forgive us our sin ([1 John 1:9](#)). Have you received this gift? If not, then today would be a great

day to receive Christ as Savior. If you have, today is (as is every day) a good day to give God thanks for the gift of salvation found in Jesus.



Day 5 [John 11-18](#) | Question 19: Who is Jesus?

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Answer: Jesus is the eternal Son of God who became human, the promised Messiah and Savior of the world.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1-2

John's introduction to his Gospel echoes [Genesis 1:1](#), taking us to "the beginning" before creation. He presents Jesus as "the Word," establishing his eternal existence, distinct personhood within the Godhead and full deity. "The Word was with God" reveals relationship within the Trinity, while "the Word was God" affirms Christ's divine nature. Then, through incarnation, "the Word became flesh" ([John 1:14](#)). God stepped into human history, taking on human flesh while remaining fully God. John witnessed the glory of this God-man, seeing in Jesus the perfect representation of the Father—the promised Messiah full of truth and grace.

This revelation transforms our understanding of God. In Jesus, we see God not as distant but as one who entered our world, experienced our struggles and demonstrated his love through sacrifice. When we hear Jesus's words and witness his miracles, we're seeing God's heart unveiled. As [Hebrews 1:3](#) states, Jesus is "the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being." Our salvation depends on a relationship with Jesus, who is both fully God (able to save) and fully man (able to represent us). His divine-human nature means he understands our weaknesses yet has the power to transform our lives.

TODAY: Reflect on who Jesus is—not just what he's done, but his nature as God's eternal Son who became human. Read [John 1:1-18](#), asking for a fresh glimpse of Jesus's glory. Thank him for revealing God through his life. Consider how you might respond to both his divine authority and human compassion today.