**Everyday Jesus – wk2 Fakers and Shackers**

**Today is Sunday! Often, we leave Jesus at church. I see it all the time.**

**Does Jesus invade our life – home, work, school, social life?**

**God and the rest of the week! Everyday Jesus!**

**Some are by definition a practical atheist. What is that? Someone who believes in God / Jesus – but lives as if he does not exist in real life.**

**We are look at the Monday thru Saturday – Jesus.**

**Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (All - work, school, home, and play? YES!)**

**Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom (will) and his righteousness, (way) and all these things (things of this life we worry about) will be given to you as well. (Jesus is the lens we see all our life thru – we must seek His will & way!)**

**A lot of talk about - Those who have walked away from Jesus.**

**Why?? Where was the disconnect?**

**Celebrities**

**Katy Perry - Christian home / father a preacher / Katy Hudson Christian music – no longer a Christian, there is no heaven or hell. I follow a higher power.**

**Brad Pitt - Raised in a Baptist / Charismatic family – he is a agnostic / atheist. “I found religion stifling” “There are so many issues, don’t get me started…”**

**Ann Rice - “I quit being Christian… It's simply impossible for me to 'belong' to this quarrelsome, hostile, disputatious, and deservedly infamous group."**

**Kathy Griffin - Christian home. Now calls it “stupid” “A lot of people come up here and thank Jesus for this award. I want you to know that no one had less to do with this award than Jesus. Suck it, Jesus! This award is my God now!”**

**Julia Roberts** **- Raised in a Christian home – she is now a Hindu**

**Orlando Bloom - Raised in a Christian home – he is now a Buddhist**

**George Clooney - Raised in a Christian home – now an Agnostic. – “I don’t believe in heaven and hell. I don’t know if I believe in God at all.”**

**Ann Hathaway - Raised in a Christian home – she now says she has lost her spirituality and follows no religion. (Miley Cyrus, 2 of the Jonas brothers)**

**Christian Leaders**

**Gungor (Christian worship leader – “beautiful things”) – became atheist**

**Dave Gass (mega church pastor) – comparing scripture to Greek mythology - “After 40 years of being a devout follower, 20 of those being an evangelical pastor, I am walking away from faith. Even though this has been a massive bomb drop in my life, it has been decades in the making,”**

**Bart Compolo - “I passed just about every stage of heresy on my way to apostasy,” Bart said. “It wasn’t until I exhausted every option for staying a Christian that I gave it up.” (he says he was faking it for a long time)**

**Joshua Harris (pastor / author / movements / videos) (divorced) “I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian.”**

**Marty Sampson (Hillsong worship leader) August – does not believe it anymore.**

**Read post highlights – “It’s not for me. I am not in any more. I want genuine truth. Not the ‘I just believe it’ kind of truth. Science keeps piercing the truth of every religion. Lots of things help people change their lives, not just one version of God.” Screen shot “His questions” – there are answers to the questions! Ask the questions!!!**

**Influencers who were once the “faces” of faith are falling away. You may not know these people – but you know someone who have walked away?**

**Millions raised in Christian homes – walk away…**

**Millions who have made decisions to follow Jesus – only to drop out**

**Millions have lead bible studies, preached, sang and then years later…**

**Millions more leave biblical Christianity for a progressive view of bible**

**This is nothing new – “The largest religious group in the United States isn't "Catholic" or "Evangelical" or "Muslims" or "Crossfitters." It's "Unaffiliated." Growing number of “non’s”**

**Billions & billions more for thousands of years have lived a life-long faith and faced death in the name of Jesus – they do not concern me!**

**Nothing new - 1 Tim 1:19 – warns of those who stray and shipwreck their faith / 6:21 – those who had departed from the faith / 2 Tim 2:18 – departed the faith and grows like gangrene. (What did they have?)**

**I am not a husband, father, or brother one day a week. We are family.**

**\*\*\* God does not call us to be part of a religion – but part of His family!**

**Jesus brings us for the first time, a picture of God who’s a loving Father - the creator God – who we can know intimately - through Jesus**

**Romans 8:15 - For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."**

**That was so radical! Jews taught God was not even to be mentioned by name. Jesus says not only can we know Him, but we can call him by name Jesus or by Abba = Daddy/Father**

**Know this – God does not want to know you… He already does (He knows all things) He wants you to know Him.**

**RELIGION OR RELATIONSHIP: What’s the Difference? What’s it mean?**

**Does it mean you hear an audible voice, have an epiphany, get a revelation, an illumination, or experience miracles? No**

**It’s simply – knowing that through Jesus**

* **God knows and cares for me personally (God is close / not distant)**
* **God listens and responds to me personally (God is involved)**
* **God directs and guides me personally (God is good)**

**But over time many substitute relationship with religion**

**Religion is marked by**

* **Emphasizes rules and rituals – What do I need to do to get to God?**
* **About creating clones – What are the ways I need to look and act?**
* **About appeasing God – What is the formula to get his blessing?**
* **Self-centered – What do I get out of it – how does it benefit me?**

**Many claim to have a walk with Jesus – especially in the south… I think a vast number have a false faith & false assurance of salvation. But in our culture many attend, sign a card, and adopt a belief system… and it is simply religion not a relationship**

**God does not call us to be part of a religion, but part of His family!**

**The Religion Masks – Counterfeit faith**

**Feelings based – as long as it makes me feel good / music / does not ask too much. But when life is hard and the feelings fade – so will they.**

**Self-based - narcissistic Christians, as long as I get something out of it**

**False faith based – Easy Believe-ism / said prayer / baptized / I believe stuff (good & bad) I am a Christian, but still…. Jesus still loves me. But when I hear / read / experience something more compelling – I’m out.**

**Work based - if I’m good, have enough faith, pray harder, know more about God - good things happen. When they don’t - it’s all a sham.**

**Church based – Likes the friendship & community – but when they hurt me or disappoint me, I’m out.**

**Family based - I’ve always been a Christian / it’s what we do as a family – but later realize, you never really bought into it.**

**But a Jesus based Faith - is where it invades your everyday!**

**Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with (some of) all your heart and with (some of) all your soul and with (some of) all your mind and with (some of) all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”**

**Heart – All Passions (desires, feelings, dreams, goals,)**

**Soul – All Will (affections, things we care about – things you breath for)**

**Mind – All Intellect (understanding – use your brain. Seek answers!)**

**Strength – All body (might all our physical ability and force)**

**Love – All our love from God is now directed to others!**

**All - All - No compartmentalizing God – separate tubs / lives**

**What does it take to have a great Everyday Jesus “relationship”**

**Starbucks Conversation – get your coffee pull up a chair**

1. **Know the real Jesus**

**John 14:6 - Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (Who is the “me”? Is he the creator Jesus, or created Jesus, man Jesus or God Jesus, one of many sons of God or the only begotten Jesus, a prophet Jesus or the messiah Jesus)**

**What you believe about Jesus matters. Clear tub filled with views of Jesus (toss out the false views – book of Mormon, Koran, JW material, Hindu material) - What’s in you matters!**

**There are false Jesus’ out there, only the real one brings us to God**

* **It matters who Jesus is Biblically (Historical Jesus)**
* **It matters who Jesus is Doctrinally (God/Man Jesus)**
* **It matters who Jesus is Personally (Holy Jesus)**
* **It matters what Jesus says? (His character and words)**

**Q - Do you know the real Jesus? Who is your Jesus?**

1. **Don’t try to put God first, put Him in the middle**

**Don’t try to put God first on a list, put Him in the middle of everything - He is not meant to be #1 on the list of things to do**

**We think, okay prayed – check - Now it’s my time… Question - when are we ever done with God? God is not 1st - He wants to encompass all**

**Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do (everything), whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Takins a test, stocking shelves, filing folders, waiting tables, digging that ditch, running that course, mowing the yard – in Jesus name!) V. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord…**

**But - we tend to see life w/ 2 boxes – a secular box & a spiritual box**

* **The Secular Box: Tell a joke you wouldn’t tell at church / swear/ cheat and cut corners / act diff w/ me than with others…**
* **The Spiritual Box: Talk different, “brother”, religious, low voice prayers (What if I had a with Nikol box and a not with Nikol box?)**

**You don’t have to be extra. God uses me and wants me to be me (My goofy self) Ever notice preachers with the preacher voice? (change voice) I wonder if they use that voice when they go out? Give me the shrimp cocktail-a! Some ice tea too-a! And a little bit of lemooon in it!” I don’t ever want to talk down to you or be phony…**

**This is what scripture calls us to do (Put Jesus Tub inside) Jesus in us = all things through Him, for Him, by him.**

**Q - Is God really in the middle or do you compartmentalize?**

1. **Find out what inspires your walk with Jesus – and do it everyday**

**We read and hear speakers tell us formulas for growing with God: retreat by lake, a tree, journal, fasting, get up early, pray an hour – we have diff personalities, gifts, interests, and ways we connect.**

**Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. (Paul goes on - Don’t pass judgment on another’s journey – instead clear the path – don’t cause them to stumble) 22 So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.**

**A Few thoughts: When we assuming the way we serve God is the same way all mature people will when they finally grow up – we tend to…**

* **Gift project – be bold, read a lot, serve in specific area, etc**
* **Turn tools into rules – You must journal, get up early, pray an hour, fast weekly, do marriage like this… - etc**
* **Turn liberty into lazy – that’s not me, I don’t need church, I can do what I want… and I don’t want to do that.**

**With this said we still have “House Rules” - 1 John 2:3 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. (the clear commands) 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: (Jesus also said if you love me, you’ll obey me – love, compassion, holiness, mercy, justice, humility)**

**Q - How do you grow close to God? What ways?**

1. **Beware of empty rituals**

**Beware of substituting empty rituals for a genuine relationship**

**We tend to think we’ve done (baptism, mission trip, volunteer, serve, Sunday church, liturgy) it can’t cover up a messed-up heart**

**Samuel tells us a story of perfect rituals but sick hearts - 1 Samuel 15:22-23 – To obey is better than sacrifice (Walking with God is better that the ritual)**

**1 Corinthians 13:2-3 – You can have amazing spiritual gifts, have all knowledge, sacrifice, give prophecy – but if we lack love (relationship) – I am nothing.**

**Colossians 2:20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence. (rituals are not the answer – a change of heart is the answer – but sadly - That is how must of us were raised)**

**\*\* Mafia Christianity (L.O.) as long as you love momma and pray in church – you can knock people off during the week**

**The outside may look good – but Jesus knows what’s going on inside. He is not fooled. He desires your life not rituals.**

**Q - What’s inside you?**

1. **Expect to go through seasons & stages - every relationship does**

**I wish I was told this as a young Christian – we’re told we’ll always be on fire – hear God – be happy – when it doesn’t happen…**

**Righteous Brothers spiritual swings (lost that loving feeling). We think what’s wrong with me? Am I still a Christian? Sin can cause you to feel distant – but sometimes sin is not the issue.**

**Let’s look at the righteous brother’s passage - “You lost that loving feeling” Rev 2 - I hold this against you, you lost your first love - This is actually about how they lost their (agape) love for others**

**Revelation 2:1 "To the angel (overseer/ leader) of the church in Ephesus… *(from Jesus)* 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. (faithful & on fire) 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. (agape = unconditional love for others) 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent (a 360) and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. (remove presence)**

**We will have seasons when God feels like this (Jesus seen in tub) and times when we feel like this (cover Jesus) but he is still here (turn tube around reveal Jesus name in tub again)**

**Don’t let those moments and seasons discourage you – the enemy will attempt to use them… Like in marriage, you may feel distant – you’re still married (go back - do what you used to do)**

**Here is the reality – as Christ is in us. (Tub in tub) We are in Christ (tub in Tub) He has His own… and will truly be with you.**

**Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus… (When we are in Jesus and Jesus is in us… we become his child…) 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."**

**I want to end my saying this again…**

**God does not call us to be part of a religion – but part of His family!**

**He knows all about you - hairs on your head, secret sin - and He still loves you and wants you to know Him. Q - Is He your father?**

**Through Jesus we can be in relationship with Him and know**

**(God is good) God directs and guides me personally**

**(God is involved) God listens and responds to me personally**

**(God is close) God knows and cares for me personally**

**1 John 2:19– they were never one of us**