

The Genius of Jesus
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"Any system of education that ignores the moral and religious nature of the student is fundamentally defective."

It is essential to the human being to find _____ to base life on.

It's unique among all living species. We're talking about human nature.

1. Human beings are responsible for their future.
2. They determine what their future will be.
3. They determine what kind of person they are going to be.

This requires knowledge.

What is Knowledge?

We have knowledge when we have the ability to _____ things as they are on an appropriate basis of thought and experience.

- PROBLEM: we have defined knowledge in such a way that the most important matters of human life cannot be subjects of knowledge.

The University's Role

- Standard 1:A of the WASC handbook: "Integrity in the pursuit of truth."
- "An institution of higher education is, by definition, dedicated to the search for truth and its dissemination."

If truth is not a legitimate goal, is not something that is rational and make sense, and is available to people, then it won't make you free.

Truth, like reality, & DESIRE always come into conflict. That's where BELIEF comes in.

When you believe something, you _____ as if it is _____.

- We need to have beliefs that are true.
- We often believe what we don't know and even fail to believe what we do know.

Leadership requires that followers believe:

- That leaders KNOW
 - That the leader has TRUTH.
 - We have to be CONFIDENT that they know the truth.
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- Truth can't be manufactured.
 - Truth is totally indifferent to who believes it or who doesn't.
 - To manipulate truth, leaders and tendencies in culture often manufacture "rumors of knowledge" where there isn't any knowledge.

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Our contemporary society with its “news” is a thriving rumor mill: rumors touted as knowledge by “experts.”

- Belief and desire form the rumors by which we live. We need to be very careful about that.
- Rumors of knowledge originate from those who have authority in culture. Often those rumors are more responses to what someone wants than knowledge.
- They often are responses to desire and will, not necessarily to truth.
- There is always this danger that instead of having KNOWLEDGE and TRUTH with it, DESIRE and WILL will push that aside and promote mere rumors of TRUTH.

FOUR GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE

The reason that Jesus stands forth as someone who should be heard in a university context is because of the centrality of these four questions.

1: What is the nature of _____?

This is the most important question you’ll ever deal with.

- The university teaches an answer to this question...an answer to that is provided by the way we conduct ourselves.
- What is reality?
 - Reality is what you have deal with.
 - Reality is what you run into when you’re wrong.
- One of the beautiful things about TRUTH is it enables you to harmonize your life with reality.

If people understood and invested in the things that are really going to affect their lives as much as they do in the things that are going to make very little difference, but are merely treated as important in our world, they’d be much better off and able to live the lives they want to live.

What is the nature of reality? Every person and every institution must deal with it.

Our education is organized around it usually in some narrow focus...so that we come to be technically competent in some area and deal with that reality very well, but it leaves our life as a whole untouched.

2: Who is well off? Who has the good life? Who has blessedness?

3: Who is a really _____ person?

This goes right to the heart of a person: am I as a person worthwhile? Am I worth admiring and supporting? Do I have something to contribute to the world?

4: How do you _____ a really good person?

You and I will practice answers to those questions no matter what we do or say. Every University conveys answers to those questions.



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We _____ an impression as to who is well off and who is a good person. Universities answers these questions, not in a straightforward and responsible manner. It will be conveyed in the whole spirit of the campus by the attitudes, the suggestion of language, the examples that are set, what is regarded as adequate teaching and research in the various fields.

Today, it is assumed that in no field of knowledge is knowledge of _____ required.

It does not matter what your field is, the assumption is, God is irrelevant. That's not something that was discovered, but something that has evolved.

THREE STORIES THAT FRAME THE HUMAN APPROACH TO LIFE IN WESTERN CULTURE

1. The Theistic Story – Ultimate reality is a personal God. Everything derives from a personal God who is ultimate.
2. The Nirvana Story - Everything derives from a reality that is undifferentiated – the realm of “no thing.” ‘New Age.’
3. The Materialist Story - The physical universe itself is the only ultimate reality.
 - a. This is the official underlying assumption of all our education system today.
 - b. This is the one that turned us away from the theistic story. T

Agnosticism: an agnostic is someone who is without knowledge. It's not just saying “I don't know,” it's saying, “we cannot know.”

In the academic world today, the theistic story is taken to be totally irrelevant to course content and serious research. Individuals may have a faith in God and that is okay as long as they don't make that some kind of knowledge claim.

The _____ power of Jesus has been the way in which he has responded to issues of human life.

VIDEO BREAK...The teaching continues with video part two...



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VIDEO PART TWO:

The university campus should be open to examine all the options!

- Open to look seriously at those who are going to answer those questions about reality, well-off, goodness, blessedness, who's a really good person, how do you get to be a good person.
- It should be open, and it has been in the past. And when the field was open, the historical power of Jesus came through the power of the answers which he gave to those questions.

Jesus is the single most _____ person in human history. Why so influential?

- Because of the power in the answers that he gives to the four basic questions.
- That is what made him such a force in history. His vision of reality, well-being, life, has nothing close to it.

What does Jesus say about reality? Reality is _____ and his _____.

- The Kingdom of God is the range of God's effective will.
- It's where what God wants done is done.
- Your kingdom is the range of your effective will. It's what you have say over.

The Trouble with My Kingdom and Yours

- It cannot run on its own. It's finite.
- We live in the midst of kingdoms in conflict.
- Desire is in conflict, and there's nothing to subordinate that too. There's no greater reality in which people can meet.
- On our own, it's impossible to be what we know we should be
- Only life in the _____ _____ harmonizes the life of human beings.

The way forward is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and *then* you have the ability to love your neighbor as yourself.

God invites us to live in a spiritual reality in which all of the aspirations of the human heart can be realized.

Jesus understood what would make human life work, and that the basic problem of human beings is to find a spiritual home in which they can know that they are _____ cared for and then from which they can care for others.

Can't we all just get along? Obviously, no! Why can't we?

- We cannot get along because we want our way. We want our kingdom to prevail.
- And we cannot find a larger kingdom in which to live together with others.
- Jesus made clear what morality is and how it can be lived.
 - That is the #1 omission from university life today -it has nothing to say about that.



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You don't teach a morality by preaching at people. You do it by body language. Subtle suggestions. By example. Who you criticize? Who you laugh at? That's how morality is taught.

Morality is a matter of passing on a certain kind of _____.

What is Morality? A shared (public) understanding, with associated emotional postures, concerning which types of persons are to be (or are not to be) admired, approved, imitated, encouraged and supported, without regard to whether they prosper or not. It is a matter of character and will.

There is always a governing morality.

- The one in our university and culture is not the one that goes with the theistic story because it is based on a different reality – taking humanity as an ultimate point of reference.

Treat others the way you would like to be treated. – Jesus

- But how do you do it? The historical power of Jesus comes from the fact that he knew what to do and could enable people to do it.
- Jesus was able to provide a morality that would actually make people good!

Who Is a Good Person?

The morally good person is a person who is intent upon advancing the various goods of human life with which they are effectively in contact, in a manner that respects their relative degree of importance and the extent to which the actions of the person in question can actually promote the existence and maintenance of those goods.

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself...How?

Only those alive in the Kingdom of God, who are in _____, _____ contact with the ultimate reality, learning from that ultimate reality, through Jesus and through His people, can spell that out and tell you how to do it.

What if you don't love yourself?

- We talk about human dignity in our culture today but what does it really mean in a consumer culture, where the pursuit of pleasure is confused with the pursuit of happiness?

Jesus refines his teaching by saying, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

How Do You Live It?

By serious inquiry and personal testing.

- Must put Jesus in the category of someone who is seriously dealing with the _____ of life.
- Honest comparison of Jesus and his teaching with others
- Surrender what I want as an ultimate point of _____
- If there really is a better way, Jesus would be the first one to tell you to take it.

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The Truth Will NOT Set You Free!

"If you continue in my word (put it into my practice) then you really are my apprentices (in living in the Kingdom); And then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:31

- You know the truth *in a way* that sets you free in an _____ with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God.
- It sets you free from your _____ to do and live the good you know.
 - We know a lot of good, but we systematically fail to do it.

We must shift the understanding of Jesus away from someone who is perhaps nice but doesn't really provide knowledge, to one who provides us with the most _____ knowledge about the most _____ things in human life.

He doesn't come to just offer a fire insurance policy. He offers us eternal life, now.