

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

Bonus #1

Title - BONUS - Listener Questions & Answers #1

Description - Answering questions we've received from our listeners, we plan to do this type of show from time to time as questions arise.

Exciting feedback from our listeners, as people are digging into the word.

Q1: "I have a random question, in today's episode, Robby mentioned that Paul went away with Jesus for 3 years and had an encounter with Him. Was he there for a full 3 years, or did he come and go?"

That's a great question, lets look at the scriptures to see what we can discover.

Paul was a pharisee of pharisees, he would have been at the top of the religious society in Judaism. In today's life, he would have been a high up cardinal in the catholic church, or president of the SBC. He's that well known in religious circles. That's the way he would have been viewed in Jewish circles.

From the Christian perspective, he was a terrorist. He was seeking to imprison or kill anyone who professed faith in Jesus. Everyone knew who Saul (Paul) was.

Acts 9:19-21 (CSB)

Saul was with the disciples in Damascus for some time. ²⁰ Immediately he began proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues: "He is the Son of God."

²¹ All who heard him were astounded and said, "Isn't this the man in Jerusalem who was causing havoc for those who called on this name and came here for the purpose of taking them as prisoners to the chief priests?"

So Saul pulls a complete 180, he goes from killing and imprisoning to proclaiming the Gospels in the streets.

Look at Galatians to see what Paul says about his testimony and how he proves that he was an apostle. He was on the same level as Peter or James.

A disciple would be any follower of Jesus, today, and then in the NT we see 120, or 500 people who are following him. Those are disciples.

But what does it mean to be an apostle? An apostle means "sent out" so those who Jesus sent out. A "big A" Apostle was a title reserved for the 12, to represent the 12 tribes of Israel.

To be one of the 12 you had to have seen Jesus with your own eyes, and been called by Him.

So Saul/Paul was not one of the 12 when Jesus was alive on the earth. Which is why it was confusing about how he went from a persecutor to an Apostle of Jesus.

Galatians 1:15-20 (CSB)

¹⁵ But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal his Son in me, so that I could preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone. ¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me; instead I went to Arabia and came back to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to get to know Cephas, and I stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I didn't see any of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ I declare in the sight of God: I am not lying in what I write to you.

When Paul comes to faith in Christ, he already has a foundation of the Old Testament, a journal if you will, that covers the history of Judaism, that has blanks in it that will be completed by the Messiah.

Remember, that knowledge for them isn't downloaded to the mind through a textbook, it's received through experience.

So Paul comes to them and says in Galatians, that just like the 12, I've spent time with Jesus. I've been with the Lord.

So this experience Paul has was for him, but it also helped affirm Paul to Peter and James and to the Church.

When you feel the call to ministry, when you feel the leading of God to preach and teach, there's something to be said about not just running out to proclaim the gospel but taking time to sharpen the axe to prepare for ministry.

Q2: "How do we balance between eastern culture and western culture in our lives today?"

We have to look at what is prescriptive and what is descriptive. Prescriptive would be something that is prescribed for all things for all time. Descriptive is what is customary for the time, but may change as seasons come and go.

We also have to consider the genre, or the type of book we're reading, because that will help us know how to interpret scriptures.

We have to discern how to balance between western and eastern thinking. Both have benefits to them.

Q3: “What sources do you recommend for digging deeper and continued reading”

Book, “The Forgotten Jesus”

<https://www.amazon.com/Forgotten-Jesus-Western-Christians-Eastern/dp/0310529239/>

There’s a big section in the end of this book about extra notes and resources, but here are some that Robby recommends and has used or read.

Dr. Dwight Pryor, <https://www.jcstudies.com/>

Dr. Arnold Fructenbaum, 4 part commentary series on the Life of Yeshua the Messiah.

<https://www.ariel.org/>

Boaz Michael, First Fruits of Zion, <https://ffoz.com/>

5 book commentary series, “The Chronicles of the Messiah”

<https://ffoz.com/chronicles-of-the-messiah-commentary-set-audio-magazine.html>

Ray Vanderlann, <https://www.thatttheworldmayknow.com/>

BEMA Podcast with Marty Solomon. <https://www.bemadiscipleship.com/>

Lois Tovberg, “Sitting at the feet of Rabbi Jesus”

<https://www.amazon.com/stores/Lois-Tverberg/author/B002BLUC1S>

Q4: “Will you do an episode about how some NT authors quote the book of Enoch”

Jude 14-15 quotes from Enoch 1:9. He does quote it, but never references what he’s quoting as scripture. Something can be true and not be on the level of scripture. That doesn’t mean we ignore the truthfulness of it.