

Masculinity: Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?

"I get mixed messages about what a man should be. I know Jesus is God, but is He also someone I can look to as the ultimate man?"

Oct. 13, The Triumphant Jesus: Jesus' death, Luke: 23:44-49

1. What keeps you from giving yourself to God, to your wife, to your family?
2. Do you trust God to care for you even in hard times? Have you ever been like the centurion and believed without doubt?
3. Jesus' acquaintances stayed at a distance.
 - a. Do you keep your distances from others?
 - b. Do you keep your distance from God's love?

Oct. 6, The Tender Jesus: "Jesus wept", John 11:1-44

1. Have you ever felt God was not listening when you prayed? How did you deal with this?
2. Have you ever felt Jesus was asking you to do something very risky? What happened?
3. When have you been faced with a tough situation that stretched your faith? Did you avoid it or face it?

Sept. 29, The Tough Jesus: Temple cleansing time, Mark 11:15-19

1. The Serendipity Bible topic suggests that Jesus is being tough in this scene.
 - a. How do being tough and being strong differ?
 - b. Which is Jesus?
2. In what areas of your life do you need to be stronger/tougher?
3. The Temple was a "House of Prayer," a holy place. What places in your life are holy?

Sept. 22, The Initiated Jesus: Baptized and tempted, Matthew 3:13-14:11

1. At his baptism Jesus experiences the unconditional love of his Father when the sky opens up, the Holy Spirit descends, and he hears "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."
 - a. Do you think it is possible for humans to love unconditionally?
 - b. Have you given or received unconditional love?
2. After his baptism Jesus is driven into the desert by the Holy Spirit where he is tested by the devil.
 - a. How have you been tested?
 - b. What got you through?
3. Jesus always operates out of his deepest identity as the beloved Son.
 - a. Are you aware of your deepest identity?
 - b. What helps you respond from that deepest core?

Sept. 15, The Human Jesus: "Isn't this the son of Joseph?", Luke 4:14-30

1. Jesus is both human and divine. When you think about him which side do you emphasize?
2. In this scene Jesus is rejected.
 - a. Was it also a failure?
 - b. How do you handle rejection?
 - c. Are you aware when you reject others?
3. Looking at the humanity of Jesus,
 - a. What do you admire?
 - b. What aspect of Jesus' life do you try to make your own?

Sept. 8, The Devine Jesus: "God is with us", Matthew 1:18-25

1. Who was a very influential person, a role model, in your life? How was your life changed?
2. What two positive qualities come to mind about your father? Are you like him or unlike him?
3. How do you feel about using Jesus as a role model?