

Topical

It's About Jesus

Colossians 1:15-17

It's been said about Jesus: "History is HIS story"

Despite MJ's HIStory album

It might not always seem like it

Certainly this past week

Certainly 24 years ago on 9/11

- When you go to the store
- When you watch a movie
- When something good happens to you
- When something bad happens to you
- When governments rise
- When governments fall
- When your team wins
- When your team loses

If we take a minute to stop, look, and listen. We might just begin to see that.

Perhaps that's why technology has become so popular because it keeps us from slowing down, from seeing the real world, and listening to the voice trying to speak to us?

NYC, Nature, "touch grass"

[Pray]

Whether we realize it or not

Whether we make it about Him or not

Everything is really and truly all about Jesus

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Genesis 1:1-3, 31 - **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ...

Then God saw **everything** that He had made, and indeed [it was] very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Everything made was made by God. Even you!

Genesis 1:26-28 - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His [own] image; **in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them**, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

His image, body, soul (mind/heart), spirit

Made us in His image, made with intent, then blessed with a calling for life

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Colossians 1:15-17 Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

All of History points to Him

BC, AD - before Christ, Anno Domini year of the Lord

Wars over lands, religions, world dominance

All trying to rule over the world that He gave us

Crusades, world wars, culture wars

Take "back" the holy land

Most, if not all, done in our way, even if his name is on it

He's been involved in history. Ancient Egypt, Nineveh, Babylon, Rome and more.

Appeared to Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua

Melchizedek King of Salem

Wanted to reach all nations - and used people to do so

The Bible is constantly confirmed by archaeology

The ancient world was set up to receive Him the first time and spread his message

The world of our day is set up for his return

All Wisdom, Knowledge is From Him, By Him, For Him
All truth (if indeed is truth) is His truth.
It will lead you to him!

Anyone seeking the truth will find Jesus.

How do I know? It's what led me to Him.

People are searching!

Russell Brand, Joe Rogan, others

Movie stars, musicians, people given over to the ways of the world - finding it all comes up short!

Wisdom itself proclaims this:

Proverbs 8:22-31 "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When [there were] no depths I was brought forth, When [there were] no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth; While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I [was] there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep, When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, Then I was beside Him [as] a master craftsman; And I was daily [His] delight, Rejoicing always before Him, Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight [was] with the sons of men.

Wisdom and its pursuit is built into creation
Put there, designed by God.

Universal constants, irreducible complexity

We live in the information age. *Have access to all knowledge in a split second. Can learn anything, anytime, anywhere. Yet, it seems common sense and wisdom has disappeared. Why?*

Where's the biggest problem with wisdom and our ability to perceive it in the Universe?

Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

**Not the head! But the heart!
Foolishness is not about intelligence or education - it's a heart issue!**

Jer 17:9-10 - "The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, [I] test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Isa 55:9 - "For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**We can never reach the end of wisdom,
but we'll never start to have it if we don't know where it begins.**

Pro 1:7 - The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge, [But] fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Solomon, wisest man to ever live came to realize, "All is vanity"
Everything apart from God, a life without God - Is empty!**

*Achievements, knowledge, experiences, feelings, all come up short apart from God
They will never satisfy. We always want more! And when we've had it all, never said no, we find that we've lost something.*

Apart from God even the best experience is...empty.
In the bar in college

With God, even the most mundane, is satisfying.

This generation is looking for meaning. Looking for answers.
What they've been told has left them empty and feeling worthless, suicidal, not even knowing who they are.

They've been told the beginning of wisdom is nothing.
That life is meaningless. That they are an accident. That there is only relative right and wrong.

If that were true, we'd be satisfied.
We wouldn't be depressed. We wouldn't be on drugs all the time, drowning out the boredom, the loneliness, the lack.

If everything is vanity without Him,

**The meaning of everything - life itself - is Jesus!
It all is designed to point us to Him.**

Well then why is everything broken?

Why are people hurting? Why do we not see Him?

Because the world is broken.

Romans 8:18-23 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected [it] in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.** Not only [that], but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Why do people die?

Why do bad things happen to good people (and bad people)?

Why is there cancer?

Why is there hate?

Why is America divided?

Why do people fall out of love?

Why is there hunger? Inequality? Injustice?

It wasn't always this way. The world was created good.

And we met with God in a garden He made, not a temple we made.

Given a choice: Tree of Life or Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

Pretty obvious that life was only available in one choice then, but we chose to know and experience things that would take our life - because it looked good, sounded good, tasted good.

But that was a lie. Life tastes way better than death!

**Eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil can never satisfy -
 it only brings death.**

Only eating from the tree of life will bring satisfaction. Contentment. Life.

We chose sin over God. We chose it despite the truth. It's our fault.

Sin is why the world is broken.

Why people die. Why bad things happen.

Sin is why your spirit, is in fact dead. Your body and soul are intact. But they are barely hanging on without a living spirit inside.

We were never designed or intended or expected to be able to handle that kind of knowledge. Sin. Or death.

Seeing tragedies in real time, horrors beyond belief without even wanting to. It changes you.

Psalm 103:12-14 - As far as the east is from the west, [So] far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities [his] children, [So] the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; **He remembers that we [are] dust.**

We were never meant to go through this life without God!

If we don't know Him - He'll try to use it to get our attention

If we do know Him - He'll try to use it to bring us closer to Him

He doesn't intend the evil, but when it happens, he intends the good.

Romans 8:28 NKJV - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to [His] purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

But there's only one way back to Him - and it's not through the garden.

"God is gracious, that's why He made there to be One way. If there were a ton of ways, we could never be sure!"

My life verse. John 14:6

God has made a way for us to have life again - to be born again.

To bring your spirit, to life

Maybe you've been to church before, and haven't heard that, or haven't

been satisfied - if that's true, maybe because it wasn't about Jesus (either by you or by them)

About money, about 12 things you can do to have a better marriage
You felt judged and not loved (or maybe it was conviction of God and you weren't ready to look at it)

**Maybe the Jesus you heard about growing up - wasn't the full picture
One who'd rather beat you over the head than take your beating.**

But He took not only your beating at the cross - He became your sin itself
And wiped it away.

The Bad News - you have to be perfect to go to heaven and ...

Romans 3:10 "There is none righteous, no, not one;

The Good News ... you don't have to be perfect

Romans 5:6, 8 - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
... But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Just forgiven.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The way back to God is not through a good garden.

Not through effort of being good.

It's through the cross of Jesus.

Jesus didn't come to make bad people good.

He came to make dead people alive.

When we believe - from our hearts - that He went to the cross for us. And came back to life.

We can start to see that everything He's done. Everything He's made.

Everything that happens. Everything He wills or allows. Is For His Purpose.

That it's about Jesus.

And the Jesus it's about - is the one who cares about everything about you.

Your hurts, losses, pains, gains, desires, dreams, goals, past, present, future.
Your heart. Your mind. Your soul. Your spirit.

We can't go back to the garden. Our choice guaranteed that.

But we can go to a better garden- heaven. His choice guarantees that - if we want it.

And heaven is about him. And that's a good thing. He's good.

And everything He allows to happen - as good or as bad as it is - is to get us to go to heaven with him. Is to get us to look for Him if we haven't.

My dad leaving when I was 9. Hurt and crying like never before in my life. But looking back, I remember God's presence there right behind my mom in the bathroom as I was sobbing asking when my daddy was coming home.

Jesus was right there. Ready to be my Daddy. Ready to show me that He was my heavenly father. But it would take 13 more years of me trying to be my own daddy, run my own life.

He does not like when we hurt.

He does not want us to be cut off or snuffed out.

Bruised reed, smoking flax

And if you haven't seen Jesus, keep looking. He wants to be found by you.

If He's hidden, it's not because He's hiding. It's because we're not looking or there's sin in the way. Because He's holy and sin has no place with a holy God.

John 14:8-9 - Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; ..."

It's about Jesus. Everything is about Him. Everything He does is for you.

And what He did for you was finished at the cross.

But He's not dead. He's alive so you can live too.

And He wants you to come to Him -Not to be perfect on your own. Not to make you a religious robot.

Luke 19:10 - "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

And When He finds you, He wants you to know Him.

Personally. Not about. Not some historical figure. Not religion.

Religion is about us working our way to God (every religion on earth)

Relationship is about God coming to rescue us (true Christianity)

Why does he want relationship? So you can be forgiven. So He can comfort you. He can bless you. He can reward you. He can love you.

So you can know him as a best friend.

So you can experience a God who will never leave you nor forsake you.

And not just know Him in this life - but know Him in the next life.

And never be apart from Him in hell

Hell made for the angels who fell

It's all about Jesus. He's all about you.