

Liberty LifeGroups Discussion

Jesus Unfiltered 1

March 1 , 2021

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experienceliberty.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

VERSES: Matthew 13

- What cultural images or expectations have we consigned in our own thinking about what Jesus might look like?
- How does culture (in every nation) define Jesus? Is He strictly European, or Hindu or African American in his physical attributes?
- Why do we want Jesus to be strictly Americanized?
- What if Jesus wasn't Americanized but something else (Black, Korean, Indian)? How would we react?

We must remove all the presuppositional ideas we have of Jesus and see him for the truth. In reality, does it matter what he looks like to you?

Matthew 13:54 *When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"*

- As the son of a carpenter, and as a carpenter, what expectations did the people in the area of Jesus have of him? How about King David as a boy? How about Paul the Apostle?
- Why do we put limitations on people? Why do we put limitations on our own selves?
- Jesus was in His own town and with His own people. How has your friends or family limited you?

Consider for a moment the monumental weight of bearing the Son of God that Mary and Joseph were under. Mary was just a teenager, pregnant and unmarried. Joseph faced intense persecution from the laws of his day. Mary could have been stoned to death. But listen to the faith of a teenager as Gabriel announced the Immaculate conception: *"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."*

The other side of the coin was this. Jesus's birth was scandalous.

- Do you think Mary's pregnancy and Joseph's character and Jesus's life were tumultuously detested? Do you think people saw Jesus as a child born out of wedlock; His mom looked upon as promiscuous? His dad as weak? How do you think *they* felt?
- What kind of a beginning was that for Jesus? People surely judge you for the things that may not be in your control. Have you been judgmental against others because of *their* background?

What area, town, city did you come from? Was it a good neighborhood? Was it a bad part of town? Jesus chose Nazareth to live in. Of Nazareth Nathaniel said, "Nothing good can come out that place." Yet Jesus taught with great wisdom, regardless of His hometown social or economic standing.

- Does our social or economic standing hinder us from being all God wants us to be?
- When we come to church, do the clothes we wear or the shoes we wear matter to others? Why or why not?

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

- What makes the difference in the way we perceive ourselves and Jesus?