

Following a Hebrew Jesus

A short companion Bible reflection to the “Greek Faith, Hebrew Jesus” article

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From the outside, a well-taught faith can look healthy. Full notebooks, underlined Bibles, quick answers. We have never had more access to knowledge about God.

But underneath all the information, many of us are quietly unchanged. Somewhere we swapped being changed by the truth for being able to explain it.

This is the Greek inheritance. Jesus was a Hebrew. In His world, to know something was to be changed by it. He never said, “Understand me.” He said, “Follow me.”

So, ask yourself...

Are you mastering facts about Jesus or being mastered by Him?

When you open the Bible, are you looking for something to know or Someone to obey?

An Opportunity to Listen

Read and reflect on each passage slowly, with the question beside it.

John 5:39–40 (NLT)

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

Ask yourself

Where has knowing the Scriptures quietly become a way of avoiding the One they point to?

1 Corinthians 8:1–3 (NLT)

...while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church. Anyone who claims to know all the answers doesn't really know very much. But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.

Ask yourself

Has your learning made you more loving or just more certain?

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NLT)

Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Ask yourself

Where does your faith actually live? In your notes and an hour on Sunday, or in your kitchen, your car, your Tuesday?

Matthew 7:24–27 (NLT)

Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.

Ask yourself

Bring to mind the last thing God clearly showed you in His word. Did you do something about it?

Reflect

- Where have you settled for knowing about Jesus instead of being changed by Him?
- Over the past year of sermons, books and podcasts, what did you understand but never obey?

Apply

- Take one truth you understand well and have never obeyed. Stop studying it. Do it this week.
- Swap one thing you consume for one thing you practise.
- Find one person near enough to imitate and one person near enough to imitate you.

Share

- Who around you knows a lot about Jesus, but is quietly starving for change?
- Ask a friend: “Is what we’re learning actually changing how we live?”
- Tell someone about a truth you finally moved from your head into your hands.

Final Reflection

Jesus is not looking for people who can explain Him.

He is looking for people who will follow Him.

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