

Mistaken Identity | Week #01

When Facts Get in the Way of Truth | April 3rd & 4th Easter

Anchor Verse: He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” -Matthew 16:15

What’s the Issue Anyway?

_____ often cause us to avoid or miss the _____.

What wisdom does John 20:1-18 offer us?

Mary was making sense of the moment with the facts she had _____. (1-2)

The facts persuaded the disciples to believe _____. (3-10)

Mary came to the only _____ conclusion based on the facts. (11-13)

Mary saw what she _____: a Gardener. (14-15)

Mary learned the truth when she heard her _____. (16)

Don’t miss this!

What others have done with Jesus shapes our _____ and distorts the _____ of God.

What about my everyday, peacemaking life?

Matthew 16:15 (Anchor Verse) He said to them, “But who do _____ say that I am?”

People’s facts about Jesus still create expectations for _____.

Some people take their facts and turn Jesus into:

_____ God, _____ God, _____ God or _____ God.

Wait at the _____ and listen for Jesus to say your _____.

Remember the _____ given by the resurrected Jesus. (John 20:17)

How can this make me a better human and our world a better place?

When the facts of Jesus meet the truth of Jesus we fall into the _____ of love.

Love exposes the tyranny of _____ and the joy of _____.

The mystery of love becomes _____ and better as you get closer and closer to God.

What is God inviting you into today?

1. Attend the next four weeks and explore these mistaken identities of God that have often caused trauma and abuse in people's lives, possibly affecting my understanding of the truth of God.
2. Confess that I have lost a sense of wonder and awe towards God, I think I know everything and need to get closer to the mystery of love.

Thought Provoking Questions for Groups or Personal Reflection

1. Think of a time you listened to the facts of someone else and it deeply affected your perspective for a long time until you experienced the truth. Why was it so easy to be deceived by the facts?
2. Name all the facts that Mary put together to conclude that Jesus' body had been taken. What that reasonable on her part?
3. What is a dominant metaphor for God in your life that has become out of balance and unhealthy? How can the metaphor of perfect father offer a solid foundation for understanding your relationship to God and the universe?
4. Why do you think it is easy to get caught up in the tyranny of doing? What habit could you develop to keep the "doing" subordinate to the "being?"

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