

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

Who Do People Say That I Am? Part 4 - Jesus, The Compassionate King

Speaker: Scott Thomas

Date: November 24, 2024

Introduction:

In this powerful sermon, Scott Thomas continued the "RE Jesus" series by contrasting Jesus' view of true worship with the religious leaders' hypocrisy, highlighting Jesus' special concern for the marginalized through the story of the widow's mite.

1. Jesus as Comforter and Divine Observer:

Scott emphasized Jesus' role as one who both comforts and truly sees people.

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you experienced Jesus' comfort in difficult times?
2. What does it mean to you that Jesus "sees" you personally?

Supporting Verse:

Luke 21:1-2 - "And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: The temple treasury was a public place where offerings were made visible to all.
- Theological Significance: Jesus notices and values what others might overlook.
- Application: We can trust that Jesus sees and values our devotion, regardless of its appearance to others.

2. The Heart Over External Actions:

Scott discussed how Jesus values the heart's posture above outward displays.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we ensure our worship comes from genuine devotion rather than obligation?
2. What might Jesus see when He looks at your heart's motivations?

Supporting Verses:

Luke 20:46-47 - "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Religious leaders often used their position for personal gain and recognition.
- Theological Significance: Jesus condemns religious showmanship while valuing sincere devotion.
- Application: We should examine our motivations for service and worship.

3. Jesus as Defender of the Marginalized:

Scott highlighted Jesus' special concern for the vulnerable and overlooked.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Jesus' treatment of the widow challenge our values?
2. In what ways can we demonstrate Jesus' heart for the marginalized?

Supporting Verse:

Deuteronomy 10:17-18 - "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Widows were among the most vulnerable in ancient society.
- Theological Significance: God's character includes special concern for the marginalized.
- Application: We should actively care for those who are vulnerable or overlooked in our community.

Conclusion:

Scott Thomas' message reminded us that Jesus is both divine observer and compassionate defender, who values sincere devotion over outward displays and shows special concern for those society often overlooks.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can you cultivate greater sincerity in your worship and service?
2. In what ways might God be calling you to care for the marginalized in your community?
3. How does knowing Jesus sees and values you change your approach to serving Him?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for seeing us and valuing our sincere devotion. Help us to worship you with pure hearts and to share your special concern for the marginalized. May we learn to see others as you see them and to value what you value. Give us courage to stand with those society often overlooks. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

"Who Do People Say That I Am? Part 4," East Hill Church, 11/24/2024. Delivered by Scott Thomas.

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Secondary Sources:

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Blomberg, Craig L. "Neither Poverty Nor Riches." New Studies in Biblical Theology. InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Collaborative Contributions:

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon notes and biblical passages.

LLM Training Data:

LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to April 2024.