

## Hidden but Known - Matthew 21:7-16

# INTRODUCTION

Scripture is all about Jesus. When in doubt, look for Jesus in a passage or narrative. Everything ultimately points to Him as our redeemer and hope.

## DISCUSSION

How often do you remove Jesus from the central part of your life?

## EXPLANATION

What things in your life will take precedence over Christ when times get hard?

## What happens when we forget Jesus and focus on ourselves?

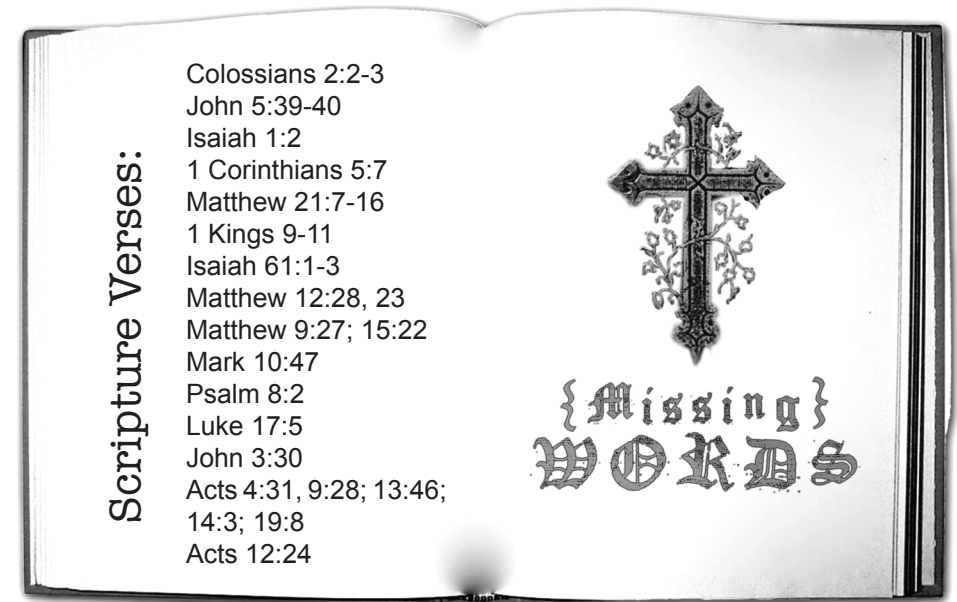
What consequences do our souls experience when we love receiving praise more than we love giving it?

## APPLICATION

How has God set you free from the bondage you used to be in?

In what ways can your freedom be seen and known by your actions?

How can you guard your heart in order stay out of bondage?



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## WEEK 1 Notes

[illegible]

## The Missing Words

Scripture is all about Jesus. When in doubt, look for Jesus in a passage or narrative. Everything ultimately points to Him as our redeemer and hope. Because Jesus is God, He was instrumental in His words (the scriptures) coming to us as a people. He wants us to understand, apply, and live out the teachings we find in the pages of Scripture.

The point of the scriptures is not to give a whole lot of head knowledge, it is to change hearts and lives to reflect better the image God living in us through the power of His Spirit. Jesus was the best teacher of the Scriptures and we should look at not only what He said, but how He taught...that means at times looking at what he purposefully DIDN'T SAY.

These are the missing words.

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***Colossians 2:2-3 "My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."***

There are certain things in scripture that, if you were reading it in the first century OR from a Jewish perspective, you would automatically know. We are now two-thousand years removed from most of the historical settings in which Jesus taught. Part of fully understanding Jesus' words are understanding how He taught in His cultural context.

Christianity is, and should be, distinctly Jewish at its core. It is what Judaism should have become (or it IS what Judaism became) but we have lost much of our heritage because we have seen the scripture, Jesus, the church, and history from a western perspective that paints broad strokes of apathy toward anything Jewish. There is a rich history that we would do well to remember.

*John 5:39-40 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. Jesus tells us that all Scripture is about Him and that the scriptures are to lead us to Him. In looking at how Jesus taught the Scriptures we must be looking for how He related them all to Himself.*

**Passover** was a Jewish holiday in remembrance of God's deliverance of Israel from slavery, bondage, and death in Egypt. God sent a succession of plagues upon the Egyptians for how they treated God's people and GOD. The most devastating plague was when the angel of death came into Egypt and took each firstborn male child that was not in a covenant relationship with Him. You would ceremonially show you had relationship with God by placing the blood of a lamb on your door frame of your house, if you had the blood of the lamb covering your family the angel of death PASSED OVER your home. The blood of the lamb brought your family from DEATH into LIFE.

### Matthew 21:13-16 and Psalm 8:2

It is during Passover that Jesus gets angry at the lazy worship of God's people (especially the most religious of them). He makes a show of His displeasure at the temple, but previous to this display little children sing and cry out to Him. This praise from the lips of children gives the religious leaders much grief because they love being the center of religious attention rather than God...and Jesus very clearly points that out.

We are a people who need:

- Bigger Faith - Faith like kids who know their dad is the strongest person in the world.
- Greater focus on Jesus: The great cry of John the Baptizer from *John 3:30 He must become greater; I must become less.*
- Fresh boldness in sharing the gospel.
- Overflowing and Expanding love.

Christianity is about Jesus, not about us, it is about His praise and not our own, it is about His life that was given for our death; it is all about Jesus. In starting this new series it will be of utmost importance that we all keep centered in our minds that everything is about Jesus.

