

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this good problem as we look for a future permanent home that Element can move into that will be larger and have some proper Air Conditioning. There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus and people, we hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here.

- The Element Team

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### BAPTISMS

**June 4th at 1pm**

Lunch: Taco Salad Bar

Last names bring:

A-L: Desserts M-Z: Taco/Salad Toppings

Sign up TODAY if you'd like to be baptized,  
or would like more information.

### GO BAGS

**The month of May**

Help us with our Go-Bags collection  
to help kids who are taken out of their home and  
placed into foster care.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST & BBQ

**- BBQ & Arcade Game Fun at the Keinert's Saturday June 10**

RSVP required at [moe@ourelement.org](mailto:moe@ourelement.org).

# PART 2 WHAT! — IN THE — WORLD?

MATTHEW 5:41

MATTHEW 9:11

MARK 2:15

LUKE 18:9-14

MATTHEW 8:5-13

MATTHEW 5:41

MATTHEW 5:43-45

MATTHEW 26:52, 55

JOHN 18:36

LUKE 23:34

LUKE 1:1-4

1 CORINTHIANS

15:3-8

MATTHEW 10:34

MATTHEW 10:16

# FIVE: WAS JESUS A ZEALOT?

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We are continuing our [What in the World Part 2](#) series where we answer your questions about the Bible in an in depth setting. We also encourage you to check our website [www.ourelement.org/blog](http://www.ourelement.org/blog) for more [What in the World](#) questions that we answer in written form. Today's question comes from a book that was on the New York Times bestseller list called, "[ZEALOT, The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth](#)" written by Reza Aslan. In the book ZEALOT the author makes the claim that most of what we understand about Jesus is false and that Jesus wasn't the savior of the world, He was simply a zealot that the early church deified. The question that was asked is, "Was Jesus a Zealot?"

**In your understanding, who is Jesus?**

**What questions have you had about Jesus based on something you have read or seen?**

The Zealots were a group of people that existed before and after Jesus. They sought to overthrow the Roman government, get rid of all foreigners on Israel's soil, and set up their own theocracy (a kingdom ruled by God). Zealots believed that if and when the Christ, the Anointed One, came He would destroy Israel's foreign invaders through bloodshed.

**Based on today's message, how would you define a zealot?**

**How do you see Jesus mission/ identity?**

**Do you believe Jesus was a zealot? Why or why not?**

When we read the New Testament Gospel accounts we see that Jesus is very clearly not bent on overthrowing the Roman Government or instigating a military rule. He is not a zealot revolutionary as the author of the book [ZEALOT](#) describes. Jesus did and said things that were radically opposed to the zealot philosophy. Jesus helped Roman soldiers, ate with tax collectors, admonished His disciples away from violence, and asked God the Father to forgive those who led to His execution; none of these things were how a Zealot would act.

**Do you find yourself trusting or doubting the Bible and its historicity?**

**What things are easy to trust and what things are hard?**

When the Gospel writers wrote their accounts there would have been eyewitnesses to contradict them if what they said was wrong. Historians today call this "multiple attestations." Multiple attestations means that when you find numerous sources that surround an event or person, who essentially attest to the same thing, the account can be thought of as reliable. In the New Testament scriptures and extra biblical sources, no matter how you slice it up, they all reveal a picture of Jesus where He clearly teaches love of enemy, love of God, and concern for the attitude of our hearts in relation to hope and forgiveness.

**How do you view the person of Jesus?**

**What do you make of Matthew 10:34 where Jesus says, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? I have not come to bring peace, but a sword."**

**Contrast with Matthew 10:16 (which is how Jesus begins the section that includes 10:34).** "*Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*"

**Contrast Matthew 10:34 with Matthew 5:41,** "*And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.*"

**Who is the real Jesus? A zealot or the Savior of the world?**

In the sermon, Aaron mentioned that NT Wright said that most historians, when they go looking into a deep well, usually find an image of themselves looking back at them. What was meant is that someone goes looking for Jesus with a preconceived bias usually finds what they assume they will find. However, when we do this, we often miss the true picture of who Jesus actually is.

**What preconceived ideas about God and Jesus do you have?**

**How can you let Jesus define for Himself who He is?**