

Jesus: yesterday, today, and tomorrow (Based on Chapter 27 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Biblical Foundation

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8 (TEV)

There is only one Jesus and he brings unity to the body of Christ: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as there is one hope to which God has called you. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; there is one God and Father of all people, who is Lord of all, works through all, and is in all” (Ephesians 4:4-6 TEV).

Yet, we often speak as if he is dead. *What would Jesus have me do?*

Well, why not just ask him?

We are like a child who keeps asking everyone, “What do you think my Father wants me to do?” *Why not go ask your father. Talk to him.*

When we ask, “What would Jesus do?” that actually suggests we have to figure out the answer on our own. *I think this is what Jesus would do, so I will do it.*

Shouldn't the question be, “Jesus, what do you want me to do?” How else would you speak to a living person?

Can you see the difference?

- “I think this is what Jesus would do, so I will do it.”
- “Jesus, I think this is what you want me to do, so I will do it.”

The apostle Paul says, Christ lives in you “as you open the door and invite him in” (Ephesians 3:17 MSG).

Discuss this teaching: “Discipleship never consists in this or that specific action: it is always a decision, either for or against Jesus Christ. Hence our situation is not a whit less clear than that of the disciple or the publican in the gospel. When Jesus called his first disciples, they obeyed and followed him because they recognized him as the Christ.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer