

Week Two: What did the people of Jesus' time say about Him?

- I. As Jesus lived and ministered among the people of Israel, He invoked some very dramatic responses. His encounters with people inspired, healed, and changed people's lives. Let's look a few of these examples and what people said about Jesus.
 - a. **Read John 1: 1 – 3; 14.** When the Apostle John wrote his Gospel letter, (approx. 80 years after Christ's birth), he wrote the "epistle" (letter) as an eyewitness to the life and events of Christ's life. John was a close friend of Jesus, and one of His Disciples.
 - i. How does John identify Jesus in this passage (John 1: 1 – 3; 14)?
 - ii. What did John say about Jesus in John 1: 1?
 - iii. What does John say about Jesus in relation to the "time & space" continuum?
 - iv. What does John say about Jesus' role in the Creation itself?
 - v. What does John 1: 14 say about the Creator?
 - vi. Why do you think he did not go see Jesus during the daytime hours?
 - b. **Read John 3: 1 – 14.** In this passage Jesus was confronted by a Pharisee named Nicodemus, who had a heart to seek God.
 - i. What was Nicodemus's rationale for going to talking to Jesus in private, at night?
 - ii. Why do you think he did not go see Jesus during the daytime hours?
 - iii. What was it about Jesus that drew Nicodemus to Him seek out?
 - iv. What spiritual reality did Jesus confront Nicodemus with?
 - v. What does it mean to be "born again"?
 - vi. Upon what authority did Jesus explain the spiritual realm to Nicodemus?
 - vii. Where did Jesus tell Nicodemus He had come from?
 - viii. What do you think Jesus was predicting in John 8:14?
 - c. **Read John 20: 19 - 29.**
 - i. After Christ was resurrected from the dead, and He revealed Himself to the disciples (still in hiding), who was the missing disciple?
 - ii. What did the Thomas say when he first heard about Jesus being risen from the dead?
 - iii. What did Thomas say when Christ revealed Himself to him? (John 20: 28)
 - iv. How did Thomas identify Jesus at that point in the conversation? (And remember this was when all the disciples were still in hiding for fear of their own lives.)
- II. **Conclusion:** In the few passages identified in this lesson, how did people respond to the words, the life, and miraculous resurrection of Christ? What drew these people to Christ? What draws you to Christ?

- III. APPLICATION:** People from all walks of life came to see and listen to Christ. Many of them came to the same conclusion, that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. They did not all believe at first, but after seeing & hearing the facts, they came to the same conclusion: Jesus was God the Creator. Are you willing to take an intellectually honest look at the facts concerning Christ's life, death, and resurrection?
- IV. MEMORY VERSES:** John 1: 1 – 3; 14.