

CA 21 TFP1 WHO IS JESUS?

Following the “Master”

FOSTER: As men, we love to watch someone who is the master of their craft. If someone offered us the opportunity to spend a whole day with a master, we'd be thrilled. Who would YOU pick? Would it be a football player or long distance runner? Perhaps you'd love to spend the day with a master woodcarver. Maybe it would be a professional fisherman, or musician, or cricket player, or a favorite artist.

Welcome to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. While we can dream about spending the day with a Master, realistically, most of us doubt we'll ever get the opportunity, But today, we are going to look at a world famous Master. A Man who is the Master of masters. **And** He wants to share His wisdom with you and me. We'll discuss this amazing Man when we return to Champions Arise.

Music Theme out***(Theme music in)***

FOSTER: Welcome back to Champions Arise. Foster Braun here with Kent Darcie. Before the break I mentioned the possibility of spending a day with a person who is the master of their craft. How about you, Kent? What master would you like to spend a whole day with?

KENT: that's a big question. There are musicians I'd love to spend a day with. Billy Graham comes to mind. But you know, I love to play tennis. And when I was younger I was a huge admirer of Arthur Ashe. I used his brand of tennis racquet. I copied his form. I would have loved to have spent a day with him. He was a master at Tennis. How about you?

FOSTER: [ANSWER] It's fun to dream, but most of us won't get a chance like that. However there is a Master who can't wait to spend the day with us and that's Jesus Christ.

KENT: It's really incredible that Jesus desires to be with us, but it's particularly interesting when think of Jesus as a master craftsman who wants to be with **us**.

FOSTER: Okay, That's an interesting perspective, but let's be more specific. When you say Jesus is a Master we want to be with, what do you mean?

KENT: Well, we know Jesus is unique. He only lived 33 years. Never travelled more than 100 miles from His home base, didn't have a formal education, and yet Jesus is the most talked about, most sung about, most influential man who ever lived. But in this series of programs we are going to learn how we can have a deeper walk with God through a book called “The Four Priorities” by John Tolson and Larry Kr-eye-der. And in their book they show how Jesus is the master of everything.

FOSTER: Wasn't there a song with that line in it?

KENT: Yes. It was called “His Name is Wonderful”

His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful,
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

He is the mighty King, master of everything,
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.

FOSTER: Master of everything. That's intriguing to me because, when the Olympics are on, I'm always in awe of athletes who are the masters of their craft. They've focused on one thing and some are the best in the world. I've never really looked at Jesus from this perspective. As the ultimate Master if you will. And He's a master that wants to share His wisdom with us. We have total access to Him day and night. But we need to dig deeper. What is Jesus the Master of?

KENT: We'll just have time for a few today but lets start with the fact that He is the Master of History. And in a couple of ways.

First, Jesus IS History, We see this in John 1:1-4. I'm reading from the New living Translation. And keep in mind that when you hear me say "the Word" it's describing Jesus Christ.

"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created."

Jesus is History

Second, Jesus molds History. The life of Jesus Christ literally divides the timeline of history into two eras: B.C. and A.D. Nobody else in history can claim that. Even now with the political correct BCE and ACE, Jesus is still the divider. We may not say BC or "Before Christ" anymore, but Jesus' life marks the center point on the western calendar.

FOSTER: If you just joined us, you're listening to Champions Arise. I'm Foster Braun and I'm with Kent Darcie. We're discussing how Jesus Christ is the master of everything He does.

So Kent, what is another area where Jesus is the Master?

KENT: He's the master of quality. Jesus' first public miracle (recorded in John chapter 2.) took place at that wedding in Cana. Basically, the host of the wedding ran out of wine—which was a huge social blunder—and to make a longer story short, Jesus miraculously transformed big jars of water into wine. But that wine was so good that the host wanted to know why the best wine was saved for later in the celebration instead of being served at the beginning. An example of Jesus as the master of quality.

FOSTER: And the next area Jesus is the master of?

KENT: Jesus is the Master of Distance. This is revealed in a situation where a royal dignitary's son was deathly ill. We see in John chapter 4 that the dignitary (who is now just a desperate father like you or I would be) hears where Jesus is, tracks Him down, and begs Him to come back to his town and heal his son.

But Jesus, sensing the man's desperation, simply tells him to head home, because He had already healed the son. Without going to where the boy was, Jesus healed him.

FOSTER: I remember similar situation where Jesus healed the servant of a Roman centurion.

KENT: That's in Matthew chapter 8.

FOSTER: This is really interesting. What is the next thing Jesus is the Master of.

KENT: Jesus is the Master of Time

In John chapter 5, the Apostle John records a situation where Jesus came up to a man who had been an invalid for 38 years. Jesus asks him if he wants to be healed, and the man indicates he does. Jesus heals him immediately—after 38 years.

And Jesus is the master of time in our lives as well. It doesn't matter how long we've struggled with this sin, or in a tough situation, Jesus can change things.

FOSTER: The Bible says in 2 Peter chapter 3, "A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day." Our time table and God's can be quite different.

KENT: So Jesus is the master of time and He is the **master of quantity**.

In the book of Mark chapter 6 (and the other three gospels as well,) we have the story of Jesus feeding 5000+ people with five loaves of bread and two fish. (John 6:5-13). Jesus can take what we have and make a wonderful provision.

FOSTER: And as the family providers we desire to be, we need to spend time praying with Jesus the Master so we can be guided in ways that can help us to faithfully provide for the needs of our families. What's next Kent?

KENT: Jesus is the Master of Nature ---- If time permits

We see this when in John chapter 6. The disciples are trying to row across the sea, but there is such a bad wind they are making very little progress. Jesus, who wasn't with them at this moment, does two remarkable things that confirm He is the master over nature.

1. He walks across the water to the disciples in the boat
2. The Bible says "*and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.*" (John 6:16-21). Somehow Jesus moved them from the middle of the lake to the shore—immediately.

FOSTER: In another situation Jesus calmed the storm with His voice.

KENT: Yes. There are numerous examples of Jesus as the Master over nature. But we also see

Jesus as the Master of Circumstances

One example is in the ninth chapter of John. Jesus and the disciples come up to this man who had been born blind. The question is raised, since he was born blind, who sinned, the blind man or his parents? Jesus makes it clear that the man's situation isn't his fault or his parents, instead, Jesus insists, it is so that the work of God might be displayed. There is a big picture going on here and Jesus is fully in control of the circumstances (John 9:1-5).

And He is fully in control of our circumstances.

FOSTER: Even when it seems like He isn't

KENT: I would say especially in those times we need to remember that He is in control.

But there's another part of this story I want to touch on for a moment. **IF TIME PERMITS** There were some other people who witnessed this miracle, but they wouldn't accept what they saw. They questioned and denied and stonewalled. Even though the blind man who could now see was standing there right in front of them—dancing probably—they would not believe.

And some of you listening to us today are like them. You've seen the change in your wife or your kids or your relative or your friend. You know the only explanation for the radical change you've seen in them is that Jesus Christ has come into their lives. And they are inviting you to join them.

To experience life with Jesus...but you won't. You're too smart or too strong or too afraid or too prideful to allow Jesus to be the master of your life. But you can change that right now. Turn to God and say. I'm sorry for my pride. I'm sorry for my arrogance. Please forgive me and please forgive all of my sins. I want Jesus to be the Master of my life.

"if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Turn to Jesus as the Master of your life. Then He will be available to help you master life.

FOSTER: I hope that anyone who hasn't accepted Jesus as their Savior and Master will heed those words. And if you did, you'll let your loved ones know and let us know too here at Champions Arise.

Right now, let's squeeze in one more area where Jesus is the Master.

KENT: Jesus is the Master of life and death

Jesus had a friend named Lazarus. He was sick and then died. Four days after the death, Jesus and the disciples arrive. Everybody thinks this situation is done. After all He's been dead for four days. But Jesus is the master of life and death. Jesus stands at the entrance to His friend's tomb and calls for Lazarus to come out. To the amazement of all those standing around, that is exactly what Lazarus does (John 11:17-44)

Jesus proved He is the Master of life and death. With Lazarus and with His on death and resurrection.

FOSTER: And He is a Master that is always there to help us.

KENT: Yes Jesus is the Master of Masters. And He holds knowledge of the secrets of the universe, but He also wants to help us be better men, husbands, and fathers. That's amazing to me.

FOSTER: This has been a different way of looking at Jesus—as the Master Craftsman. But more important—as a Master we have total access too. Thanks Kent for sharing these interesting insights.

KENT: It's been a pleasure.

FOSTER: We'll be right back on Champions Arise.

Music Theme out

Music Theme in

FOSTER: Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. The material for this program was drawn from the book, "*The Four Priorities*", by Dr. John Tolson and Larry Kreider (Kr-eye-der). This book is a great resource for individuals, small groups, or a church class. If you would like more information on who Jesus is, how He can be your Lord, or if you'd like a copy of this program, contact us through our website www.championsarise.org.

Kent and I will continue to glean insights from this powerful book next time and we hope you'll join us. Until then, this is Foster Braun. Thanks again for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

Music Theme out