TOPIC: JESUS IS…SMART!

If we say we believe that Jesus is smart enough to impact our lives as many modern icons of great intelligence do, how can we show the mark of His daily influence upon our lives?

KEY POINTS

- Max Planck. Albert Einstein. Hippocrates of Kos. Ben Carson. Virginia Apgar. Steve Jobs. Mark Zuckerberg.
- Extremely smart people. Brilliant. Phenomenal. Extraordinary.
- We not only revere them, we emulate them. We are inspired by them. We "follow" them on social media. We support them by buying their stuff. We embrace their life philosophies. And ultimately we try to be like them.
- Why? Because they are smart! And we want to be smart.
- When we want to describe who Jesus is we use all kinds of Biblical terms – Jesus is LORD; Jesus is my Deliverer; Jesus is Holy; Jesus is a Way Maker; Jesus is God…and so on.
- We all have favourite attributes of Jesus that spring to mind when we are asked to fill in the blank: Jesus is_____.
- But seldom, if ever, would we say "Jesus is SMART!"
- In fact, some might say that Jesus is BORING. Or OLD-FASHIONED. Or MEAN. Others may say Jesus is IRRELEVANT. Or ARCHAIC, ANCIENT HISTORY. But SMART?
- Yes, Jesus is SMART. Let's compare Him to the "smart people" mentioned earlier.

Quantum Physics (Max Planck, Albert Einstein):

- The Bible says in Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (NKJV).
- God had total control over creation. He consulted no-one. He acted all by Himself. What He made, He saw that it was good, and it's still good! Quantum physics can't tell us anything more amazing than what the Eternal Spirit did at creation. And John 1:1-10 clarifies who this Creator was in the beginning; He was Jesus. Jesus is SMART!

Medicine (Hippocrates, Ben Carson, Virginia Apgar):

- "And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all" (Luke 6:19).
- These very smart doctors accomplished great things in their lifetimes practising medicine, but none of them can beat Jesus!
- Carson operated on a fetus in the womb but God created the womb and the fetus! Psalm 139:13 says, "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb."
- Doctors treat and manage symptoms, but only Jesus can cure us of all our diseases. Our confidence should be in Him alone.

Technology (Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg):

- Do you know that one of the main building blocks in a CPU is sand? At about 25% (by mass), silicon is the second most frequent chemical in the earth's crust (behind oxygen).
- Sand has a high percentage of Silicon Dioxide (SiO_2), which is the base ingredient for semiconductor manufacturing.
- Genesis 1:9: "Then God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear'; and it was so."
- Steve Jobs didn't create something out of nothing; he basically re-arranged matter – he mixed ingredients the Master had already created.
- Zuckerberg's smartness has impacted all our lives with things that can be used for good, but can also be negative and counterproductive.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 7:24 -29; Genesis 1; John 1:1-10

- Facebook has influenced generations to think only about themselves and to waste countless hours minding other people's business while their personal relationships suffer from neglect.
- I Peter 4:15 says, "But let none of you suffer as … a busybody in other people's matters."
- Philippians 2:3-4 says, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."
- Jesus is SMART! He knows how good healthy relationships are for families and for living in community with each other as His earthly body.
- He is the ultimate icon -- the greatest communicator who ever existed -- and He continues to communicate with us today in deeply meaningful and life-altering ways.
- What do you say now? Is Jesus smart enough to be able to speak into your life today? How much does His 'Smart Device' impact your day, your decisions, your present, your future?
- How much will it impact your eternity?
- He says to us today: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.... And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand" (Matthew 7:24, 26).
- Let's get smart --because Jesus is.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

This is our "Children's Day" message. Children, make sure to participate. Maybe ask to lead the discussion!

1. How do you respond to the "smart people" in your world – both positively and negatively? How do your answers compare to how you respond to Jesus?
2. Re-read these scriptures: 1 Pet. 4:15; Phil. 2:3-4. Discuss: i) How do these scriptures instruct our use of social media? Ii) What is the difference between being a "busybody in other people's matters" (discouraged) and "looking out for the interests of others" (encouraged)?
3. Jesus repeatedly said "Follow Me". Discuss this in relation to social media "followers". (e.g. Does He mean: check out My biblical "profile"; read about My travels and activities; personally interact with Me and do stuff with Me as I lead you; all of the above?)
4. What in our lives makes it obvious that we "hang out" with the smartest Being in the universe – and makes others want to get to know Him too?

Prayer Time

Jesus, You are smart. Forgive me for the times I've thought I or someone else was smarter than You, and listened to them more. Help me to learn everything that I can from You. In Jesus' name.

L.G. ice-Breaker: If you could spend a day with a "smart person" from any period of history, who would you choose, and why?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS