

1 Spiritual Tourists

- Have we become complacent as mere spectators to the works of God through Jesus Christ?

2 Holy Land – Orlando

- At the Holy Land Experience in Orlando, Florida. Jesus is crucified everyday but one, Sunday.
- He is a ruggedly handsome guy with long wavy and sandy hair, a full beard, smiling eyes and six-pack abs.
- This isn't Disney World, and Jesus is no Mickey Mouse, but everyone from the disciples, townfolk, and Roman soldiers are there to mingle with the visitors and pose for the cameras.

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- In the mornings, Jesus heals the sick, and casts out demons.
- In the afternoon, he drags the cross down the Via Dolorosa, while actors portraying Roman soldiers appear to kick and spit on him.
- All this is done as tourists snap pictures, eat ice cream, and drink diet soft drinks from a nearby concession stand.
- Religion done the American way . . .

5 Questions

- Has the message of the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ become a passion play for us to watch and rate the actors?
- Is our religious goal to drop in, look on, have a pleasant experience, but then it's on to our own affairs?
- Is the real message of Easter a tourist attraction or an ongoing reality that continues beyond the historical event?

6 Song & Dance

- “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.” (Matthew 11:16–17 NIV)
- The Gospel is not a form of entertainment for us to appreciate.
- It is an act of God to call us to repentance.
- Jesus didn't die on the cross for us to admire his courage, but it was an act to free us to be His disciple.

7 Purpose

- Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. . . . Produce fruit in keeping with repentance (Matthew 3:2, 8 NIV)
- But unless you repent, you too will all perish. (Luke 13:3 NIV)
- Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes (Matthew 11:20–21 NIV)

8 Purpose

- The purpose of the gospel is to find a people willing to do God’s will and bring Him glory by becoming Jesus’ disciples.
- To those who repent, Jesus says, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)
- For 21st-century disciples, being a follower of Jesus is not about wavy blonde hair, full beards, robes, six-pack abs and twice-daily shows.
- It is about walking the talk, dying, being raised and being in relationship with God, whom Jesus calls Father.

9 Being Sent

- Walking the talk
 - Showing mercy when we have the power to punish.
 - Caring for the sick, binding up the broken, lifting up the fallen.
 - Showing respect, charity, and love to others—even to our enemies and people we don’t like.
- Dying daily
 - Saying “no” to those selfish interests that keep us from saying “yes” to the needs around us.
- Buried
 - Living faithfully when no one around us notices or cares.
- Resurrection Life
 - We’re alive to a new life, and we are alive with new life.

10 Imago Christi

- To be the Imago Christi doesn’t require us to be superhuman . . .
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- Showing respect and honor to our employers, civil officials, parents, and church leaders.
- Prioritizing our time and values so we can strengthen our marriage, support our family and be a help to others who are in need.
- Be self-disciplined so that we can pray with a clear conscience.
- Keep on learning how to please the Lord!

11 The Message

- The message of the Cross is a message that God is at work preparing a people to serve Him.
- The message of the Resurrection is a message that God will honor those who serve Him —with a new beginning and a new life.

12 The Jesus Experience

13 Our Response

- Jesus is coming for us!
- But will He find faith on the earth?
- God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.
(1 John 4:16–17 NIV)

14 The Lord's Supper

- As we take communion tonight, let us do what the Scripture says, “Let us judge ourselves so that we will not fall into judgment.”
- Let us ask ourselves are we following Christ or just watching?

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