

To Enjoy and Express the Freeing Hope of Jesus



Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Perpetually face "follow decisions" COST/BENEFIT



### Refusal

"I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."



#### Refusal

"I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

#### Consumer

"I'm a
Christian but
it doesn't
really
impact my
regular life."



#### Refusal

"I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

### Consumer

"I'm a
Christian but
it doesn't
really
impact my
regular life."

## Religion

"I follow the rules and do what I'm supposed to do, better than most."



## Refusal

"I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

### Consumer

"I'm a
Christian but
it doesn't
really
impact my
regular life."

## Religion

"I follow the rules and do what I'm supposed to do, better than most."

## Lordship

Jesus + Nothing.

"My Lord and My God"



<sup>17</sup> If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Didn't trust in outcome, but in God's Power and Goodness

### John 6:68

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

3:24 ... "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire? <sup>25</sup> ... But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

#### God is WITH

Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

3:24 ... "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire? 25 ... But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

### God is ABLE

Matthew 26 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

3:24 ... "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire? <sup>25</sup> ... But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

#### God is GOOD

Matthew 26 <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

3:24 ... "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire? <sup>25</sup> ... But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."

#### God is KING

Matthew 27:29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

#### Matthew 28

<sup>18b</sup> "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

#### Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



**ALL:** 

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

<sup>2</sup> O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!



LEADER: <sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

**ALL:** 

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
 and in his word I hope;
 my soul waits for the Lord
 more than watchmen for the morning,
 more than watchmen for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD! LEADER: For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. 8 And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.