***To know Jesus, the same way we get to know anyone else, we must learn about His culture, family, and background.***

**Jesus’ Name**

* Matthew 1:21-23
  + Isaiah 7:14
* Luke 1:31; 2:21

***“Alone of all people in history, He had the privilege of choosing where and when to be born; He chose a pious Jewish family living in a backwater province of the Roman Empire.” – Philip Yancey***

**Jesus’ Heritage and Culture**

* Circumcised on the 8th day
* Worshipped in synagogues and temples (Matthew 5:17)
  + The Law (Session 3)
  + The Prophets (Session 4)
  + Psalms (Session 5)
* Followed Jewish customs
* Nazareth
  + In Galilee
    - Fertile land
    - Beautiful vistas
    - Moderate climate
  + Sits on a hillside 1,300 feet above sea level
  + Views from Mt. Carmel by the ocean to the snowy peak of Mt. Hermon
  + Farthest province from Jerusalem
  + Aramaic was their language (rural accent)
* Poverty
  + Jesus’ earthly family (Luke 2:22-38)
  + City vs. Country (John 7:15, 49)
    - Jesus was from and hung out in “the country”
  + Crime/Banditry
  + Debt
  + Taxation
  + Priestly excess (1 Timothy 6:10)
* Political tensions and activism
  + “Rome kept peace at the end of a sword…”
    - Jesus was not a Roman citizen; colonized subject of the Roman Empire
  + imposed Greek culture
  + several revolutions
    - Essenes
    - Zealots
  + Collaborationists
    - Sanhedrin
    - Sadducees
  + Pharisees
  + The Hebrew Bible and Justice/Righteousness
    - Mishpat: the establishment or restoration of fair, equitable, and harmonious relationships in society
    - Sadiqah: behavior that fulfills the responsibility of relationship, whether with God or with other persons
    - The Exodus
    - Judges (2:16; 8:22-23)
    - The Exile(s)
      * Assyrians
      * Babylonians
      * Persians
      * Greeks
      * Romans
    - The Messiah

***“…the harsh social, economic, and political factors of Jesus’ life as a colonial subject of the Roman Empire helped to shape the holistic spirituality that undergirded His message and ministry.” – Obery M. Hendricks, Jr.***