***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
* 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
		- The Exile
		- 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.***