

As I write this article, I am sitting in Anthem Coffee, at a table facing West Pioneer Avenue, in downtown Puyallup. I have a 20-ounce drip coffee next to me (no this isn't a commercial for Anthem but I do like it here). I just finished a daydreaming session as I sat staring out the window; and continue to do so as I write. People are walking by with destinations in mind; looking at their phones or talking with their walking mates. Cars whiz by hurrying to get to this place or that. The coffee shop is buzzing with conversations and the pleasant noises of coffee making equipment. So much activity. So many sounds. Everything and everyone seems so busy. As for me, I quietly sit here in my own little world; oblivious to the noise but cognizant of the activity. Where are people going? What are they thinking? How are they feeling? Are they stressed, facing a deadline, dealing with family or marital issues? These are just some of the questions running through my mind; not expecting any answers. There is another question, though, that I am wondering about.

Do they know Jesus? I mean, **really** know Jesus.

*Leave it to a pastor to think such things?* Maybe, but you might be surprised how often I do not think of such things, but really, shouldn't all Christians be wondering and asking this question of themselves? Shouldn't all Christians see people and wonder if they know Jesus, I mean **really** know Jesus? *Pastor, you keep saying "really know Jesus"*. Yes, I do and that is the crux of the problem with many Christians. They say they know Jesus, but don't **really** know Jesus. For many, Jesus is just a historical character that lived long ago; who taught some really good lessons and performed some amazing miracles. Many just profess a belief that Jesus existed, but in reality, Jesus doesn't really matter in their lives. Many people claim to be Christians, but when push comes to shove, they back off in the interest of preserving the peace. It is one thing to know Jesus, but is Jesus the Lord and Savior of your whole life?

Don't get me wrong, I am not sitting here in this coffee shop with a holy than thou attitude. I am just concerned. There are many confessions of faith out there passing through the well-meaning lips of people but with no real-life change. Jesus is just a useful person in this life but *don't interfere too much, Jesus, I still like my sin*. Wearing a cross necklace and driving around with a "Jesus fish" decal on your car, doesn't make one a Christian. A true Jesus-following Christian is one who is changed from the inside out through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Being a Christian is having a whole new world view and life view. Being a Christian means that every single part of one's life is under the Lordship of Jesus. It's that simple. So, I sit here wondering, do you really know Jesus? He matters, truly matters and is worth following with your whole life. Why, because he saved your life through his death and resurrection. So, do you know THIS Jesus?