



Transactional, Conditional Jesus

Jim Burgen
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// Bible References: John 2:1-5, 11; 3:16; 6:14-15; Luke 5:23-26; Ps 73: 25-26; Habakkuk 3:17-18; Proverbs 3:5-6

// Community Question: How many of us in this group have already quit on our New Years Resolution?

// Discussion Questions

1. Jim discusses how many people start their faith journey with a contractual relationship with Jesus. What are the potential problems with viewing our relationship with God as only as transactional? Have you ever found yourself making deals with God? How has this affected your faith when things didn't go as expected?
2. In the wedding at Cana story (John 2), what does Jesus's response to Mary reveal about the difference between our immediate concerns and God's larger purpose? How do you balance bringing your immediate needs to God while trusting His larger plan for your life?
3. Jim shared that when life gets hard, we often land in one of two places: "*Something is wrong with me*" or "*Something is wrong with God*." When you face disappointment, pain, or unmet expectations, which direction do your thoughts tend to go and why do you think that is? How has that belief shaped the way you talk to God or see yourself?
4. Going Deeper: Read Luke 5:23–26. In this moment, Jesus uses physical healing to reveal His greater authority to forgive sins, showing that spiritual restoration comes before physical relief. What stands out to you about what Jesus chooses to prioritize, and how might this shift the way you view unanswered prayers or unmet needs in your own life?

// Challenge: Jim challenged us to anchor our hearts in God's truth by memorizing Scripture. This week, choose one of these passages and sit with it daily:

- Psalm 73:25–26
- Habakkuk 3:17–18
- Proverbs 3:5–6

Commit to memorizing it slowly this week, not for performance but for presence.