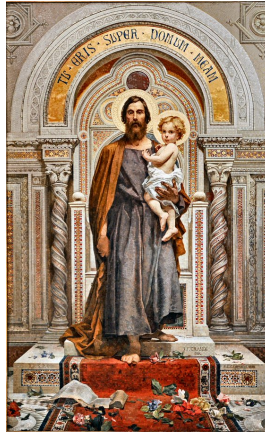


# St. Joseph Society's September Boot Camp Podcasts



## Podcast Schedule

- Podcast #1 – Is Jesus Nice?
- Podcast #2 – Who do you say I am? (Lord, Liar, or Lunatic?)
- Podcast #3 – The Plague of Modern Man
- Podcast #4 – An Invitation: Come and See

## Podcast #1 – Is Jesus Nice?

### I. Introduction – Is Jesus nice?

1. Why does this question matter?
  - a. Augustine – “What is unknown cannot be loved.” (*De. Trin.* 1,2).
  - b. We are called to be disciples of Christ. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26). The word Christian means “little Christ.” We can’t imitate Christ, if we don’t know him.
2. Who is Jesus Christ?
  - a. If we are going to follow Christ, we have to have a clear understanding of who he is. If we don’t desire to be like Christ, we are not going to be sufficiently motivated to do what it takes to become like him.
  - b. One of the biggest problems in our culture and Church today is that people have a wrong understanding of who Jesus is. Jesus Christ is not some effeminate, weak hippy, and he is certainly not nice.

### II. What does it mean to be nice?

1. Dictionary Definition: To be nice is to be appetitively pleasing. A nice person is someone who is agreeable, delightful, pleasant and kind. A nice guy is someone who is pleasurable to be around.

## 2. What is wrong with that?

- a. Being a pleasant person is perfectly fine in certain situations, but it cannot be the guiding principle of your life. If you wake up in the morning and commit to be pleasant to every person you meet that day, you may find yourself making bad choices and being led far away from our Lord.
- b. Being nice is appropriate in some situations and inappropriate in others.
  - i. When is it appropriate to be nice? When you are playing with your children in the backyard or attending a dinner party, you should be a pleasant person to be around.
  - ii. When is it not appropriate to be nice? When your children need to be disciplined, or a colleague or friend needs to be corrected. There are occasions in life when we should not be pleasant to be around.

## III. Is Jesus Nice?

### 1. Was Jesus pleasant to be around? Yes and No.

#### a. Yes

- i. Children Liked Him (Mark 10:13-16)
- ii. Christ was invited to a dinner party at Levi's House (Mark 2) and the Wedding Feast at Cana (John 2)

#### b. No

- i. In Matthew 21, Jesus makes a whip out of chords and violently drives away the merchants in the temple court. Nice guys don't do that.
- ii. In Matthew 23, Jesus challenges the religious leaders of his day by calling them hypocrites and blind guides. Nice guys don't do that.
- iii. Finally, Jesus stood toe-to-toe with the most powerful empire in the world and refused to back down even in the face of death. Nice guys don't do that.

### 2. Being nice was not Jesus's guiding moral principle. Nice guys don't get crucified. Moreover, it is said that nice guys finish last, well Jesus finished first when he resurrected from the dead.

## IV. Application

### 1. We are not called to be nice, but good.

- a. A good man is pleasant to be around when the circumstances call for it, but he is also willing and capable of defending all that is true, good, and beautiful.

- b. “The American Boy” by Teddy Roosevelt – The boy can best become a good man by being a good boy—not a goody-goody boy, but just a plain good boy. I do not mean that he must love only the negative virtues; I mean he must love the positive virtues also. “Good,” in the largest sense, should include whatever is fine, straightforward, clean, brave, and manly. The best boys I know—the best men I know—are good at their studies or their business, fearless and stalwart, hated and feared by all that is wicked and depraved, incapable of submitting to wrong-doing, and equally incapable of being aught but tender to the weak and helpless.”

2. How can we become good men?

- a. Luke 18:18-19 – A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.
- b. Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.
- c. James 4:6 – God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

3. Monthly Challenge: The First 15

- a. Pray: The Morning Offering of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
- b. Read: The Gospel of John

## Podcast #2 – Who do you say I am? (Lord, Liar, or Lunatic?)

### I. Introduction: Not only a good man, but the God-Man

1. Review: Last week we discussed the fact that Jesus is not a nice guy, but a good man. A good man is pleasant to be around when the circumstances call for it, but he is also willing and capable of defending all that is true, good, and beautiful. We also discovered that we can only become good men by getting Christ's life in us.
2. Though it is true that Jesus is not a nice guy, but a good man. This week we will see how he is not only a good man, but the God-Man.

### II. Who did Christ claim to be?

1. New Testament writers claimed Jesus was God:
  - 1) St. John says “the Word was God” and “the Word became flesh” (John 1:1, 14).
  - 2) St. Paul says that Christ is “God over all” (Rom. 9:5), and “in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form” (Col. 2:9).
  - 3) St. Peter declares that believers receive righteousness from “our God and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 1:1).
2. Jesus claims to be God:
  - 1) Mark 14:61-64 – But he was silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” And Jesus said, “I am; and you will see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” And the high priest tore his mantle, and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death.
  - 2) John 8:56-59 – Your father Abraham rejoiced that he was to see my day; he saw it and was glad.” The Jews then said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they took up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple.

### III. Is Jesus Lord, liar, or a lunatic?

1. *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis – I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to (52).

## 2. Who was Jesus? – Legend, Liar, Lunatic, or Lord

- a. Was Jesus a legend? No, the resurrection accounts were written far too early for the texts to be legendary for legends take 200 years to develop and the New Testament texts were written by Jesus' contemporaries.
- b. Who did Jesus claim to be? God
  - i. His claims were false:
    1. He knew they were false: He was a Liar.
    2. He thought they were true: He was a Lunatic.
  - ii. His claims were true:
    1. In light of Jesus' miraculous deeds, his resurrection, his supreme conduct and teachings, the prophecies he fulfilled, and the fact that he would be unlikely to die for his own lie, liar and lunatic are eliminated.
    2. All of the evidence points to Lord: He is Lord.

## IV. Application

### 1. All or Nothing

- a. Luke 9:62 – Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”
- b. Luke 9:23-25 – If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

### 2. Monthly Challenge: The First 15

- a. Pray: The Morning Offering of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
- b. Read: The Gospel of John

## Podcast #3 – The Plague of Modern Man

### I. Introduction

1. Review: As we have seen, Jesus should be considered a nice guy, but a good man. However, he is far more than a good man; he is the God-Man. We have also seen that in order to be a good man, we must get his life in us, and following Christ is an all or nothing proposition.
2. What keeps men from giving themselves to our Lord? I would suggest there is an invisible plague sweeping through our culture.

### II. Two-Headed Hydra That Make Men Soft

1. There are two vices that will make you soft: effeminacy and sloth. Either one of this two-headed monster will inhibit you from becoming the man God wants you to be and will strip you of your manhood. Both of them steal your ability to do difficult tasks, but they do it in different ways.
2. Sloth
  - a. Definition: Aversion to what is difficult.
  - b. Some guys look at a difficult task and fold like a cheap suit.
3. Effeminacy
  - a. Disordered attachment to what is pleasurable. Effeminacy is off the charts right now. There is an active conspiracy in our world today to steal your masculinity and make you effeminate. Enjoying pleasure is an important part of life, but you cannot become overly attached.
  - b. What kinds of things can you be overly attached to?
    - i. Pleasures of food, drink, and sex? Pornography and masturbation are a plague in our society.
    - ii. Possessions? Only a moderate amount of wealth and possessions contribute to happiness.
    - iii. Your ego or reputation? The pleasure of the idea you have of yourself.

### III. Application – Courage in the Christian Life

1. G.K. Chesterton – “The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.” (*What's Wrong with the World*)
2. Fight Sloth – Embrace struggle and challenge. Learn to love the process.
3. Fight Effeminacy – Moderation is key. Fr. Chad Ripperger, an exorcist, who has a great talk about effeminacy on youtube called “How to Raise a Man”, says that demons treasure the idea of “anything but moderation,” because God receives glory when we enjoy the things he has made rightly (Charles D. Fraune, *Slaying Dragons: What Exorcists See & What We Should Know*).

4. 1 Timothy 1:6-7 – I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.

## Podcast #4 – An Invitation: Come and See

### I. Introduction

1. Teaching at a Protestant, Evangelical high school.
2. The Shortest Verse in the Bible: John 11:35 – Jesus wept.

### II. The Death of Lazarus – John 11

#### 1. The Death of Lazarus

- a. John 11:1, 3-6 – Now a certain man was ill, Laz'arus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. . . . So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Laz'arus. So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer[a] in the place where he was.
- b. John 11:11-15 – Thus he spoke, and then he said to them, "Our friend Laz'arus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Laz'arus is dead; and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

#### 2. Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

- a. John 11:17, 20-21 – Now when Jesus came, he found that Laz'arus had already been in the tomb four days. . . . When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
- b. John 11:23-27 – Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

#### 3. Jesus Weeps

- a. John 11:32-37 – Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"
- b. V. 33 – Jesus "was deeply moved in spirit and troubled (literally – angered). **Why is he angry?**



- c. V. 34-35 – Jesus says, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”
  - i. The skeleton key that unlocks the mystery of Jesus weeping is the phrase “come and see.”
  - ii. It is only used two other times in the Gospel of John both of which are in chapter 1.

### III. The First Disciples of Jesus

1. Context: In the beginning of the Gospel of John, St. John the Baptist is talking with his disciples and he relates the story of Jesus’s baptism and tells them that Christ is the Son of God.
2. John 1:35-39a – The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, “What do you seek?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day.
3. John 1:43-46 – The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Beth-sa’ida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathan’a-el, and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathan’a-el said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”
4. What is going on here? In both uses of the phrase “come and see” in the chapter, Jesus and Nathanael are using the phrase to invite the person they are talking with to see where Christ lives. Christ then invites them to come and stay with him where he lives. Of course, there is an obvious literal interpretation, but it is not a stretch to look for a spiritual interpretation as well. Jesus is not merely inviting them to his earthly home, but his heavenly home.

### IV. Application

1. How does this shed light on the death of Lazarus? Notice that Jesus tells Martha that he is the resurrection and the life just prior to approaching the tomb. When he approaches, Mary and the Jews are weeping and this angers our Lord. Why? I think he is angry at their unbelief. If they truly believed that he was capable of raising Lazarus from the dead, then they wouldn’t be weeping.
2. Jesus then asks where have you laid him, and they reply come and see. Every time the phrase “come and see” is used in John’s gospel, the person giving the invitation is going to show you where they live. Where do the people in this crowd live? In the tomb. They are spiritually dead. Their unbelief is what causes our Lord to weep.
3. Challenge
  - a. Gentlemen, where do you live? Have you answered Christ’s invitation to share in his life or are you living in the tomb? All of us, at each moment of our lives, is doing one or the other. There is no third option. There is a neutral.
  - b. Matthew 12:30 – He who is not with me is against me; he who does not gather with me scatters.

c. An Invitation

- i. Revelation 3:20 – Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.
- ii. Matthew 11:28-30 – Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”