



Links Players

Knowing God | The Great Stoop

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3, ESV)

...I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. (Philippians 3:7-8, ESV)

It is deep in the bones of many golfers to know world-class players. A close friend recently took his nine-year-old son to the TOUR Championship.

During a practice round, Harris English invited his son to walk with him inside the ropes. My friend would not say, "We know Harris." He would say, "We met and talked with Harris."

It is common among Christians to sharply distinguish between "knowing" and "knowing about." We often hear that it is possible to "know about Jesus" but not "know him." This is quite true. For example, many of us know about Arnie, but most of us never knew him personally.

We often blur this line because we're so familiar with these famous golfers' TV appearances; it's easy to think we know them.

Similarly, we live in a culture saturated with information about Jesus. But knowing about Jesus and knowing him personally, while related, are not the same.

But there is a flip side to all this. While it's possible to know about Jesus without ever meeting him personally, it's impossible to know him intimately without increasing our knowledge about him.

Getting to know and know about Jesus is an intense endeavor—rarely, if ever, does he reveal himself in personal ways to the 'casual inquirer.' Not to mention, a deep dive into the multifaceted ways Scripture portrays him requires sustained passion and effort.

One of the main ways Scripture reveals Jesus is through the titles given to Him. For instance, it is widely recognized that Jesus fulfilled and also currently holds all three major offices found in the Old Testament: Prophet, Priest, and King.

Jesus is not just another prophet in a long line of godly messengers; He is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies (1 Peter 1:10-12). While they prophesied in parts over many centuries, Jesus is God's perfect and final word (Hebrews 1:1-4). Indeed, something greater than Jonah [prophet] is here (Matthew 12:41).

He is not just another priest in a long line of Aaronic priests; instead, he is the

Great High Priest from a completely different order, the order of Melchizedek. Indeed, something greater than the temple [priest] is here (Matthew 12:6).

He is not just another king from the long line of Davidic kings; instead, he is the greater Son of David currently seated at the right hand of God. Indeed, something greater than Solomon [king] is here (Matthew 12:42).

Why should we consider all of this? Why would understanding these three offices and how Jesus operates in them matter? What might we overlook by not recognizing Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King?

Failing to understand these three offices and how Jesus functions within them, unfortunately, puts us at risk of creating a Jesus in our own image, and an imaginary Jesus cannot accomplish anything on our behalf.

Jesus has "stooped" into history to accurately explain God (John 1:18). Let's get to know him as he truly reveals the invisible God, not as we have imagined him to be.

Prayer: Father! Create in us an insatiable hunger to know and know about you!

READING: Jeremiah 9:23-24; Philippians 3:7-8; John 17:3; Matthew 12:6-41-42; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Hebrews 1:1-4

1. How strong is your Golf IQ? How much do we really know about this game's history, players, origins, and more? Have you ever been disabused of false knowledge?

2. After reading these texts, discuss the importance of knowing the Jesus of Scripture, not the one we've imagined him to be.

3. Application: Since Scripture is the only authorized "biography," discuss the importance of its presentation of Jesus Christ versus a variety of cultural representations.
