

Standing on the edge

Who is Jesus for
you?




Who is
Jesus for
you?

Two separate ways of responding to the question, “who is Jesus for you”.

Meta story

Personhood of
Jesus

Not considering the Christ-figure, or the
messianic aspects of Christology.



“I am a Christian and I find no home in white Christendom. The faith I was raised in – that beautiful Wiradjuri harmony carried on the voices of a people forsaken – **found a place with God in spite of everything Christendom had brought.** Ours was the crucified Christ; crucified as a political act. Our theology is political. It is a theology of liberation. And it is black. My uncle who preached in black churches across NSW always said he was a Wiradjuri Christian. He said he did not follow a failed European Christianity. How could he? It is unfashionable to talk about Christ and God and faith. But religion matters to me. **I could not find the love to stare into the face of history without hate if I did not have God.** If I did not carry with me always and forever the voices of that little white wooden mission church. . .

My faith tells me God put me here right at that moment because I needed to hear them. To others it may just be coincidence. Perhaps at another time I may have just passed by. But this is the journey I have been on. Since the death of the White Queen I have wrestled with anger, resentment, betrayal, sadness and return; return home and to find a place of love and peace. **My faith has been deepened and strengthened by the ordeal. In truth I have been on this journey all my life.”**

Stan Grant – *The Australian*, 22.4.23





Jesus speaks

Matthew 12:6

There is far more at stake here than religion. If you had any idea what this Scripture meant—

‘I prefer a flexible heart to an inflexible ritual’

Matthew 12:35

It’s your heart, not the dictionary, that gives meaning to your words.



- Faith is the leap into the water, now with the lived experience that there is *One who can and will catch us*—and lead us where we need to go. Religion, in some sense, is a necessary first half of life phenomenon. Faith is much more possible in the second half of life, not necessarily chronologically but always spiritually.
- Jesus said, “No sign will be given except the sign of Jonah.” —Matthew 12:39

“This strong one-liner of Jesus feels rather amazing and largely unheard. He even says it is an “evil age” that wants anything other than the simple sign of the prophet Jonah. He says it is the “only sign” that he will give.”

Listening to the “the **generative narrative of our time and living the questions and calling.** These, of course, are ways of seeing and arts of living that have emerged as a harvest of 20 years of listening to the world. . .”

Krista Tippett *“On Being Project”*



Matthew 12: 42 *The Message*

*“Wisdom far greater than Solomon’s is right in front of you,
and you quibble over ‘evidence.’ ”*

Ann Weems (1934–2016) suffered tragedy firsthand when her twenty-one-year-old son was murdered. She poured her profound grief into writing her own versions of lament psalms. Here she takes heart from Jesus' own weeping:

Jesus wept,

and in his weeping,

he joined himself forever

to those who mourn.

He stands now throughout all time,

this Jesus weeping,

with his arms about the weeping ones:

“Blessed are those who mourn,

for they shall be comforted.”

He stands with the mourners,

for his name is God-with-us.

Jesus wept.

**“Blessed are those who weep, for they shall be
comforted.” Someday.**

Someday God will wipe the tears from their eyes.

In the godforsaken, obscene quicksand of life,

there is a deafening alleluia

rising from the souls

of those who weep,

and of those who weep with those who weep.

If you watch, you will see

the hand of God

putting the stars back in their skies

one by one.