

***Jesus The King:  
Understanding The Life & Death Of The Son Of God***

**Discussion Guide**

*“My purpose here is to try to show, through [Jesus’] words and actions, how beautifully his life makes sense of ours.” – Tim Keller*

## ***Chapter 7: The Stain***

Read Mark 7:1-5 and 7:14-16.

**1. According to Jesus, in our natural state we're unfit for the presence of God. Most modern people have a problem with this idea, Keller says. Do you agree with Keller on this? (pp.77-78)**

**2. He uses the Franz Kafka book “The Trial” to show how modern people don’t think they deserve judgment, yet struggle with profound feelings of guilt and shame. Discuss this. (pp.78-79)**

**3. Read Mark 7:17-23; Mark 9:43-48. According to Jesus, What’s really wrong with the world? Why is there so much strife between nations, races, tribes, classes? Why do relationships tend to fray and fall apart?**

4. On pp.82-86, Keller says outside of Christ, we try to fix our hearts with any number of things. Discuss each one.

*Religion*

*Politics*

*Popular Culture*

*Christian Ministry*

5. On pp. 87-91 he summarizes a sermon he heard from Ray Dillard on Zechariah 3:1-9. What was the lesson?

## *Chapter 8: The Approach*

1. Do you agree with Keller here?

*How do you approach God? How do you connect with him? Most of us can think of two options. There is the ancient understanding: God is a bloodthirsty tyrant who needs to be constantly appeased by good behavior if not outright sacrifice. And there's the modern understanding of God: he's a spiritual force we can access anytime we want, no questions asked.*

2. Read Mark 7:24-30. How does Keller describe the woman in the story here? (p.93)

**3. A modern reader would likely think Jesus is being offensive in what he says to her. Why isn't it though? And how does the woman respond to what he says? (pp.94-96)**

**4. Where do we see the gospel in this story? (pp. 96-97)**

**5. Read Mark 7:31-37. What stands out about how Christ deals with and heals the deaf man in this story, in comparison with other miracles he did? (pp.100-101)**

## *Chapter 9: The Turn*

Read Mark 8:27-32.

**1. Keller calls this the end of "Act 1" of Jesus' story. What two truths does Jesus finally affirm in this story? Why were these hard truths for the disciples – to hear? Why might they hard for us to hear?**

**2. Jesus' death on the cross for us is a "personal necessity", says Keller. It enables us to "need less and love more". (pp. 106-108) Discuss this section.**

**3. "Yet we don't need Jesus' sacrifice only personally; we also need it legally." How is Jesus' death also a "legal necessity"? (pp, 109-110)**

**4. Then he argues that Christ's death was a "cosmic necessity", and that it had to be violent. How so? (pp. 111-112)**

**5. "Jesus is saying, 'Since I'm a king on a cross, if you want to follow me, you must go to a cross.' What does it mean to take up our cross?" Let's wrestle with an answer for Keller's question. ( p.113-118)**