L GROUNDWORK

What Jesus Says about the Bible

Some years ago a number of books and articles were written around what some called "The Battle for the Bible." Theologians and others were debating what kinds of words we should use to describe scripture. Is it inerrant? Infallible? Authoritative? Trustworthy? The arguments can sometimes seem like hair-splitting, but the basic issue is an important one: can we believe the Bible? Can we trust what it says? When we listen to it are we actually hearing the word of God? Well, here's an idea. Let's go to the source, and hear what the Bible says about itself. Better yet, what does Jesus think? What does he have to say about the Bible? The answer might surprise you.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How do you evaluate a source (like a newspaper or book) to decide whether it's credible? What factors do you consider?
- Have you ever felt the need to prove the Bible is truly the word of God and not just a book created by humans?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: What Jesus Says about the Bible

READ Luke 24:27, John 5:39-40, Matthew 5:17-20

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Why is Jesus' distinction between "abolish" and "fulfill" in Matthew 5:17 important?
- In segment 1, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discuss how Jesus loved the Bible, lived the Bible, and obeyed the Bible. How does this reality confirm that it's a book whose contents can be trusted? Can you identify examples of biblical passages that exemplify how Jesus loved, lived, and obeyed God's word?
- At the end of segment 2, Dave observes that Jesus seems to be warning the Pharisees not to miss the main point (Jesus!) of the scriptures they study so thoroughly. Consider your own study of scripture. When are you most challenged to remember that Jesus is the main point of all scripture? What can you do to remind yourself to ask "How does this point to Jesus?" about each Bible passage you read?
- Why does or why should Jesus' belief and treatment of the Bible impact your belief about the truthfulness and credibility of the Bible?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

Luke 2:41-52, Luke 4:1-13/Matthew 4:1-11, Matthew 12:1-14, Acts 2:14-41

CONCLUSION

Are there aspects, passages, or stories of the Bible that you find difficult to believe? Spend some significant time in prayer. Pray over the passages you find difficult to believe and ask to understand them in light of Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal their truth to you as clearly as if Jesus was explaining them to you while walking down Emmaus road. Pray also that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, Christ's righteousness through you would be evidence of the Bible's truth for those in your life who might be questioning the veracity of the Holy Bible.

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Printed on August 29, 2025

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