

MISSING THE PLOT

Isaiah 36:4-7a | James 2:1-10, 14-18 | Mark 7:24-37

God goes to the _____

God _____ the indifferent

What needs to be _____

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

For the Travel posters I mention in my introduction, please see <https://mymodernmet.com/national-park-review-posters-amber-share/>

The hardest tension that I think Christianity encounters is between what Jesus said and did while he walked around with his disciples, and what his final, salvific work is for humanity. It probably didn't start as a tension. There is a way of hearing Jesus and his work and that focuses solely on temporal things – healing, sacrificing, miracles, etc. And there is a movement that focuses on eternal redemption – the cross and resurrection (for, often, a specific chosen subsection of humanity). If you focus on the former, you are often accused of being political in this world, a social justice warrior, communist, something. There's a list of insults. If you focus on the latter (a far, far safer option for conservative Christianity that is centered on intellectual assent to our personal salvation), you can at best seem indifferent to the present struggles of this or any other day. So what to do? Recognize how both feed each other, and how both are important to who our God is. Read James. This, I think, is part of his struggle.

Reflect:

Tensions are meant to be held, even if they make us uncomfortable. How does resolving this tension between Jesus walking around and Jesus risen lead us to problems communicating the Christian faith to others?

Respond & Remember: James 2:17-18

¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.