

Listening Guide



Tim Keller said, “**Lack of cultural awareness leads to distorted Christian living.**”



Cultural awareness is essential to the gospel.



Our 21st century culture is far removed from the culture of the New Testament.



Scripture comes to life when we understand its unspoken culture.



Stephanie said, “**I have found Jesus to be compelling and attractive and irresistible, but you have to taste it to know it.**”



2 Corinthians 4:6 – “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus.”

KEY TAKEAWAYS

01

Cultural Awareness and Christian Living: Understanding the culture around us is crucial for living a vibrant Christian life. Just as Jesus spoke into his culture, we must navigate our own world with awareness and intentionality.

02

Unraveling Mystery through Story: Jesus weaves his spirit into our personal stories, revealing his presence and power. How is Jesus shaping our lives today?

03

Cultural Journey: It is essential to understand how Jesus wove His own culture into His teachings. We have largely lost this understanding, and as a result, Scripture has largely lost its flavors. Let's rediscover the first century Jewish culture, so that Scripture enralls us again! Matthew is the perfect guide.

KEY QUOTES

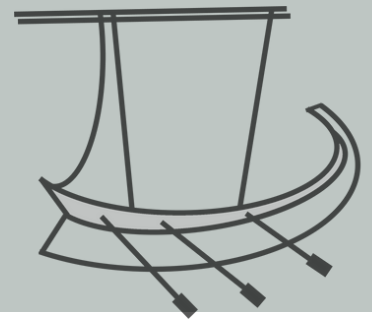
"Communication never happens in a vacuum."

"We've lost not only the ability to name the spices that flavor the gospel spiritually speaking. But also even our ability to taste them and to identify them."

"I discovered the claims of Jesus on my life and I found him to be absolutely irresistible. So I gave my life to him."

"For my determined purpose is that I may know him, that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with him."
(from Phil 3:10)

QUESTIONS TO GO DEEPER



1. We aim to reveal the gospels from the inside out. What does this mean for understanding the context of the Bible?
2. How does our global cross-cultural reality influence our understanding of Jesus' culture 2000 years ago? Why is it important to explore the culture of scripture in a new way?
3. According to the late Tim Keller, cultural awareness is crucial for Christian living. What did he mean? Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
4. How did the authors of the four canonical gospels navigate a different world compared to ours today? What challenges might they face if they were to navigate our world today?
5. Stephanie mentions the need to understand the nuances and spices that flavor the gospel spiritually speaking. What do you think she means by this? How do we regain the ability to taste and identify these spices?
6. Gospel Spice aims to make the 1st century Jewish culture accessible to our modern 21st century, gentile Western ears. What role does conservative orthodox Christian doctrine play in this endeavor?
7. Stephanie shares a little bit about her story and her journey with faith. How do you think personal stories contribute to our understanding of Jesus and the gospel? How does Jesus weave his spirit into our stories today?
8. Stephanie mentions encountering the claims of Jesus on her life and finding him irresistible. Have you ever had a similar experience? How did it impact your faith journey?
9. How has your own cross-cultural experiences shaped your understanding of Jesus and the gospel? Have these experiences made you more aware of the cultural context of scripture?
10. Why do we all need to be familiar with the culture of Scripture? How can this help us navigate the nuances of 1st century Jewish culture and apply it to our lives today?