

DOES GOD KNOW WHO I AM?

Matthew 14:22-33

Theme: Jesus is the answer to life's hard issues

Purpose:

- **To provide biblical insight on questions that are hard and universal to every culture.**
- **To point the listener to Jesus as the ultimate answer to these questions.**

**EPISODE 3 OF 7
HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD SERIES
(15 MIN. FORMAT)
CHRISTIAN RADIO DRAMA
“THE STORY WITHIN”**

003



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Hard Questions About God Series
Episode 3 of 7: Does God Know Who
I Am?
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DIRECTORIAL INFORMATION

CAST OF CHARACTERS: (note voice quality required)

- **Each voice should be recognizably different from any other character.**
- **Some characters appear in multiple episodes of this series. Use the same voice for the same character.**

Thomas: **Narrator, a disciple of Jesus** (voice of a mature man)
Philip: **Disciple of Jesus** (voice of a mature man)
Jesus: **The Son of God** (warm voice of a mature man)

Director's notes to all readers:

- These are radio **dramas**. The action and emotions are in the words. Take your time in reading the story; remember that the listener will hear these words only once; speak distinctly with appropriate emotion; carefully observe all punctuation (i.e., pause at commas, stop at periods, intensify at exclamation points, and give special emphasis to words in **bold** type).
- Observe all **music** cues (bold/small print) throughout the script.
- Observe **sound effects** directions (bold print) throughout the script.
- Observe all **voice** instructions (bold print) in parentheses throughout the script.

Note to translators: When Scripture is used, the print is in italics, and it is NIV (1984). Scripture references are given to aid the translators and should not be read as part of the script.

DOES GOD KNOW WHO I AM?

Scripture reference: Mt. 14:22-33

(Music: Theme music begins, then gradually fades to underscoring during comments by Program Host)

Program Host

Welcome to “The Story Within.”

If you are like most of us, you have probably observed that the world is filled with men and women who live in difficult circumstances, struggling every day just to survive and to provide food and shelter for their families. The question they ask is not, “What shall I eat tonight?” but “Shall I ever eat again?”

To the many that daily face such basic questions of survival, talk about God and His wonderful plan for our lives falls on deaf ears; experience seems to teach them that if there is in fact a God at all, He is either unaware or unconcerned about their plight. A valid question that they ask is this: Does God even know who I am?

Dear friend, if you have ever asked this question, I have good news for you: God not only knows who you are, He has known you intimately since before the day you were born. In God’s Word, it says of Him, *“You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb . . . all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be”* (Ps. 139:13, 16).

Join us now as we listen to the third episode in our series on Hard Questions About God, based on events and people found in God's Word.

(Music: swells to indicate scene change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Notice that scene changes are depicted with music.

Scene 1

INSERT: (Sound effects: nighttime; a soft breeze and crickets chirping in the background)

Thomas: (narrator): When Jesus asked me to leave my father's business and follow Him – to be His disciple – my first impulse was to laugh. For Jesus, you see, was a Rabbi, a religious Teacher; I on the other hand was a rather non-religious skeptic. He was a rising star with the crowds, preaching good news and performing miracles wherever He went; I was a poor, unsuccessful leather merchant who did not even believe in God.

INSERT: (Sound effects: add the sound of approaching footsteps)

Thomas: (narrator): (sighs) And yet for some reason that I did not understand at the time, I overcame that first impulse, left my father and followed Jesus, becoming one of His 12 disciples.

INSERT: (Sound effects: add soft, murmuring voices, which continue in the background as Philip and Thomas speak)

Philip: (yawns and sighs) Now . . . that was a busy day.

Thomas: Is it always so hectic around Jesus?

Philip: Always. (**yawns**) Only sometimes, things are not as fun as they were today.

Thomas: Fun? You thought today was fun?

Philip: Well . . . yes, actually, I did.

Thomas: You call arguing all morning with religious leaders, and then trying to restrain a smelly, hungry mob all afternoon fun?

Philip: Thomas, even **you** have to admit what happened today was a miracle.

INSERT: (Sound effects: add the soft, distant sound of waves lapping gently on the shore)

Thomas: Yes, yes, I concede that; Jesus fed thousands of people with just five small barley loaves . . .

Philip: And two fish . . .

Thomas: And two fish, yes; but as far as I was concerned, the whole thing was ruined by that testy crowd – all those grabbing, clutching fingers; all of those people hoarding and stuffing their cloaks with food, all the demanding, all the pushing and shoving. It was disgusting.

Philip: And yet, there was still enough food left over to fill 12 baskets full. In the end, they were all satisfied.

INSERT: (Sound effects: add the sound of the waves grow louder as they approach the shore)

Thomas: And that was another thing. After eating their fill, the filthy mob just dropped everything where they sat and followed Jesus up on the mountain, pushing and shoving, and trying to get His attention. We were left to clean up the mess.

INSERT: (Sound effects: the footsteps and murmuring come to a stop; the waves are now loud and close by)

Philip: We are disciples, Thomas; that is what we do.

Thomas: I thought that disciples are supposed to learn from their Teacher, not clean up after Him.

INSERT: (Sound effects: the murmuring picks back up in agreement with Thomas, now with a grumbling sound to it)

Philip: Come on, men; enough complaining. Peter?

Peter: (clears his throat, then above the grumbling) Um . . . Philip is right. I do not want to hear any more grumbling.

INSERT: (Sound effects: the grumbling slowly fades out)

Peter: That is more like it; now – in the boat.

INSERT: (Sound effects: sharp grumbling and groaning in response)

Peter: (raising his voice) I said no more grumbling! Now, in the boat!

INSERT: (Sound effects: the grumbling diminishes, but not altogether; wood creaking and soft thudding noises as the men clamber aboard)

Philip: Where are we going, Peter?

Peter: To the other side of the lake.

Thomas: (surprised) The other side of the lake? But Peter . . . why? There is nothing over there but . . .

Peter: I know that, Thomas. But Jesus said to go to the other side of the lake; I did not ask Him to explain Himself.

Thomas: But . . .

Peter: Get in the boat, Thomas. You too, Philip.

Philip: But, where is Jesus? Is He not coming with us?

Peter: He is not. He said that He will catch up with us later. **(raising his voice)**
James! Shove off!

INSERT: (Sound effects: the boat scrapes on the sand as the men shove it out into water; suddenly the boat is free, and we hear voices chattering, waves and oars splashing as the men begin to row into the surf)

Peter: (shouting) Pull, boys! Head us southeast, across the lake!

INSERT: (Sound effects: the sound of the surf fades away, the pull of the oars settles into a smooth routine, and the chattering subsides into low murmuring)

Philip: Thomas? Are you well? You look a little sick.

Thomas: (sounding cross) I did not sign up for this, Philip.

Philip: What is the matter? You do not like the sea?

Thomas: No, I do not! But it is not just the waves, Philip; I do not like the whole thing – the running around, the cleaning up, the noisy crowds. I thought that becoming a disciple would be more . . .

Philip: (pauses, then prompting) . . . Would be more . . . what?

Thomas: Well, a little more dignified. We are just His servants, Philip; He says ‘Pick this up’, and we pick it up. He says ‘Go over there’, and we go. I do not see the point.

Philip: Be patient, Thomas; things are not always like this. There will be times when being near Jesus will take your breath away.

Thomas: Being near Him? Philip, I have not spent two minutes time with Him since I agreed to follow Him. I am not even sure that He knows my name.

Philip: That is just silly, Thomas; of course He knows your name.

Thomas: If that is so, Philip, then the situation is even worse than I thought.

Philip: Why would you say that?

Thomas: Because since that very first day, Philip, I have not heard Jesus say my name, even once.

Philip: Thomas, I cannot believe that . . .

Thomas: Rabbi or not, miracles or no miracles, I clearly mean nothing to Him, or His God. To Jesus, I am just a handy servant, and I want no more of it.

(Music: music underscoring begins to build softly)

Philip: But, Thomas . . .

Thomas: I mean it, Philip. I am through. When we reach the other side of the lake, I will find my own way home.

(Music: swells to indicate scene change; then fades to soft underscoring)

INTERMISSION

Program Host: Thank you for tuning in. You are listening to "The Story Within." Today we are following a series called, "Hard Questions About God," based on events and people found in God's Word. Previously in our story, Thomas had responded to a call from Jesus to follow Him, and found himself among His disciples as they moved about the countryside ministering and preaching hope and good news everywhere they went. But in spite of several incredible miracles that Jesus performed right before his eyes, Thomas remained skeptical about Jesus. For Thomas, you see, was not sure that he believed in God, and even if God did exist, Thomas did not believe that God or His messenger Jesus cared anything about him. Listen now, as we continue our story.

(Music: underscoring fades out as sound effects return)

Scene 2

INSERT: (Sound effects: there is now a stiff breeze blowing; the oars are still pulling, but no longer gently – waves are slapping at the boat, and the men are shouting to one another and rowing at a frantic pace battling the rough sea)

Philip: (above the noise) Thomas, are you okay?

Thomas: (above the noise) No, I am not!

Philip: (above the noise) Thomas, I know you are uncomfortable out here in this storm, but things are not as bad as they seem right now.

Thomas: (above the noise) No, Philip; I should have known better than to think things could turn out well for me! I am afraid we are all going to die out here in the middle of the sea, and it is all my fault!

Philip: (above the noise) How can you possibly blame yourself for this storm?

Thomas: (above the noise) I am cursed! Things have never turned out well for me.

Philip: (above the noise) What do you mean?

Thomas: (above the noise) As long as I can remember, everything has been one disaster after another! The death of my mother when I was very young; poverty my whole life; the crucifixion of all my brothers by the Romans; religion forced down my throat by my father and my uncles. Philip, nothing I have ever touched or been a part of has ever turned out well. And now, this! I was a fool to hope that things could change for me.

Philip: (above the noise) But Thomas, things have changed for you.

Thomas: (above the noise) How can you say that? Here I am a supposed disciple of Rabbi Jesus, about to die at sea, and He does not even know who I am!

Philip: (above the noise) You are wrong, Thomas! Jesus sought you out and called you by name; He cares about you just as much as He does me, or any of these others here in the boat!

Thomas: (above the noise) Then why did He send us out here to die?

INSERT: (Sound effects: sudden sharp voices crying out in fear)

Thomas: (above the noise) What now?

Philip: (raising his voice) Peter! What is going on?

Peter: (above the tumult) Someone is . . . someone is coming!

INSERT: (Sound effects: more sharp voices crying out in fear)

Thomas: (above the tumult) Someone is coming to rescue us?

Philip: (above the tumult) Someone approaching? In another boat?

Peter: (above the tumult) No! It is someone walking on the water!

INSERT: (Sound effects: the voices cry out, “It is a ghost!” “A spirit approaches!”)

Jesus: (from a distance, shouting above the tumult) *“Take courage! It is I!*

Don’t be afraid!” (Mt. 14:27)

Thomas: (above the tumult) Who is it, Peter? What is happening?

Peter: (above the tumult) I think it is . . . Jesus! **(shouting)** *“Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water!”* (Mt. 14:28)

Thomas: (above the tumult) Peter, what are you doing? Have you gone mad?

Jesus: (from a distance, shouting above the tumult) Peter, it is I! **Come!**

Thomas: (above the tumult) Peter, do not . . .

Philip: (shouting) Look! Look, Thomas! Peter too is walking on the water!

INSERT: (Sound effects: a sudden blast of the wind and a huge surge of waves crash into the boat)

Thomas: (screaming) Peter, you are going to drown!

Philip: (shouting) Oh, no! He is sinking! He will surely drown!

Peter: (shouting, from a distance) “*Lord, save me!*” (Mt. 14:30)

Thomas: (screaming) I knew it! **This is all my fault!**

Philip: (shouting) Look! It is Jesus! He has Peter by the hand! He is bringing him back!

INSERT: (Sound effects: the wind begins to subside, and the waves begin to smooth out; we can hear splashing as Jesus and Peter approach)

Philip: (shouting) Grab him, Andrew! **Pull him aboard!**

INSERT: (Sound effects: sounds of struggle as they pull Peter into the boat; the wind and waves continues to subside until the sea is calm and smooth)

Jesus: (gently, with a hint of a chuckle) “*You of little faith; why did you doubt?*” (Mt. 14:31)

INSERT: (Sound effects: the only sound is gentle surf lapping at the side of the boat)

Thomas: (softly) Is Peter . . . will he be okay?

Jesus: Yes, Thomas; he will be fine. I would never let him drown. Oh, and

Thomas . . . ?

Thomas: Yes, Jesus?

Jesus: (softly chuckling) I know who you are.

(Music: underscoring music swells; then begins reprise of Theme music; softly underscoring comments of Program Host during Our Response to God's Word)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

Program Host

Thomas may not realize it just yet, but his life is about to change, dramatically.

For his friend Philip, you see, was right: Jesus had purposely sought out each of His 12 disciples, and He cared deeply for each one of them. Just as He would never let Peter drown in the stormy sea, Jesus would never let Thomas turn away without addressing his fears and concerns, and without providing him with an opportunity to find answers.

But eventually, Thomas was going to have to face some difficult issues, beginning with his distorted view of God, and the source of the problems he had experienced all of his life. His problem was not bad luck or a curse; his problem was his own sin.

The Word of God makes clear that every person is a sinner. "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Rom. 3:23). God is righteous and holy. Sin becomes a barrier between God and us. You and I are separated from God because of our sin.

Even though we are sinners, God still loves us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. God is a God of forgiveness. He has made a way that sinful persons can be forgiven and restored to a right relationship with Him.

I'm going to pray a brief prayer from my heart to God. Listen to my prayer, and then when I have prayed I will lead you to pray the same prayer.

Dear God, I know that I have sinned. I confess to You that I am a sinner.

I'm sorry that I have sinned. Thank You that You still love me. Thank You that You have made a way for my sins to be forgiven. I want to know about that way. Amen.

Now repeat the prayer aloud after me. We will pray it a portion at a time. Make the prayer your very own to God. Mean it with all your heart as you pray.

Dear God, (pause for person to repeat)

I know that I have sinned. (pause for person to repeat)

I confess to You that I am a sinner. (pause for person to repeat)

I'm sorry that I have sinned. (pause for person to repeat)

Thank You that You still love me. (pause for person to repeat)

Thank You that You have made a way for my sins to be forgiven. (pause for person to repeat)

I want to know about that way. (pause for person to repeat)

Amen. (pause for person to repeat)

Thank you for praying that prayer. In the next program we will learn about the way God has made for our sins to be forgiven.

(Music: Theme music swells dramatically and fades as broadcast ends)

Note to Broadcaster, Program Host, and Director

If this drama is to be broadcast as a part of the “Hard Questions About God” series, there should be a “listener tag” at the end of the broadcast, indicating that the next episode will be another drama on a hard question about God.

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