

Transcript 97

Shea Houdmann

Welcome to the Got Questions podcast. We're going to be discussing this a little bit later in the episode, but this time of year, around Easter we get so many people who are emailing us, contacting us, in a sense complaining why are you even talking about Easter? Easter is not a Christian holiday. Same thing happens about around Christmas. Same thing happens about any holiday and when we engage in the conversation that people often find out that they are Jehovah's Witnesses and that is going to be our topic of conversation today.

Shea Houdmann

So on the podcast with me today I have Melissa Dougherty. She is an apologist, a writer, a Christian you tuber extraordinaire. You may remember we had her several episodes ago talking about the new age movement, so, and but she has a background in Jehovah Witnesses so she's going to join me for the conversation today. So Melissa, and welcome to the program.

Melissa Dougherty

Yeah, thanks for having me. It's good to be here again.

Shea Houdmann

So Melissa just briefly, what is your background experience with the Jehovah's Witnesses?

Melissa Dougherty

Yeah, well, first I want to say that I've never been a Jehovah's Witness, but to tell the story of how I got involved with the Jehovah's Witness religion is really to tell about my story of how I left the new age. 'cause they played a very pivotal role in me leaving and for people that don't know I am an ex new ager and I had my first child in 2010 and it was around this time while I was still entrenched mixing my Christianity with new age and not knowing it, by the way, it's very important. I didn't even know there was a word for what I believed until they left it. I'm like, oh, this is new age. This is not Christianity. There's a difference.

Melissa Dougherty

Uh, I was on a pursuit of wanting to learn about religions and lo and behold, two nice Jehovah's Witnesses show up at my door and I was under the impression that if you called yourself a Christian, you were saved. You were good to go. It didn't matter really what your beliefs were, as long as you had some sort of belief in Jesus and God, and you could kind of worship Him in the way that you chose, and they call themselves Christians.

Melissa Dougherty

So for me I'm like oh, or you know. This is the way they choose to to worship God. Most of what I thought they believed was rumors. If I'm going to be honest, I did not believe that they actually believed in some of the things that people said they believed like one for example, the big one was Jesus being Michael the Archangel. I mean, I was biblically illiterate, but even I knew that is not true. Like how?

What kind of hoops theological hoops you have to jump through to get that. It would be kind of the equivalent to saying Jesus, would. I mean, I would believe that Jesus would be more of like the reincarnated Buddha than like Michael the Archangel, you know, but it would be more of like the equivalent for example, of calling Jesus you know, if he was an Angel in that aspect, it would be, you know like that he was a yeah Joseph, the Carpenter or something. It's like there's two different characters in the Bible that are fundamentally different from each other. How does that make sense? You know? So I didn't. I didn't think that was true, but I was wrong.

Melissa Dougherty

Lo and behold, about our third visit, I was very interested just to know what they believed. I wasn't going to convert or anything, I was just very curious. I've always been that way. I'm still that way, and it was around the fourth visit. Third or fourth visit that the lady gets up and she's like next week we'll go over how Jesus is Michael the Archangel and I'm like say what, what, now and I felt this urgency to just research their religion and people that know about the Jehovah's Witness religion you know that their worst enemy is the Internet. They are told to stay off the Internet. Do not look at information that's critical of the Watchtower society. You are not supposed to do that, so me being how I am, I'm like, oh, that's exactly where I'm going to go. I'm going to go research this and research I did and I went down the rabbit hole.

Melissa Dougherty

I discovered the ends and outs of this religion. And the next two weeks that followed after that I dedicated so much time to researching this religion that it was more than a hobby. I couldn't stop thinking about it, I became very interested in how this religion worked and at the same time simultaneously, my beliefs at the time were being challenged because if here's the Bible and it's disagreeing with what the Jehovah's Witnesses say. And here's my beliefs, and if this is true, then both of these are wrong and so it was kind of how God used my research of the Jehovah's Witness religion to know my Bible and to get out of the new age, but also to bring me into ministering to the Jehovah's Witnesses. I realize they are a cult and there's a way that you can actually define what a cult is and why they are a cult, which is very important. And once you understand that concept, I think it's easier to understand them. Because they're very tough to get through to. But it was through wonderful ministries. Evidence ministries is one I'm going to give a shout out to forjehovah.org is another.

Melissa Dougherty

Those two were very pivotal in my understanding of this religion and Ron Rhodes book Reasoning With The Jehovah's Witnesses was wonderful, so those three at the tip top, I'm going to give credit to for anything that I share in today's podcast as a resources that helped me understand these doctrinal things that we're going to talk about today.

Shea Houdmann

So in addition to Jesus being Michael the Archangel, according to Jehovah's Witnesses and what are some other key things that Christians need to be aware of? I mean, some of these things over the years of doing Got Questions and receiving some of these questions. I had a similar reaction to you and that like, no, they don't actually. Oh, they actually do believe that so what are some of the other big eye, opening beliefs that people need to be aware of about the Jehovah's Witnesses?

Melissa Dougherty

Yes, this can be nuanced. If I'm going to be honest, so I'm going to focus on the basics and I know there might be people listening that know, probably a lot more than me about this religion that are like oh you missed something and. There's a lot I'm going to miss, so I'm going to refer you again to the resources I mentioned before, but also I did an entire series, it's like a five to six video series. There's a lot on this religion to know that I did on my channel and I go way more in depth about so many things about what they believe, why they believe it, how to get through to them, how to witness, all those things. So today it really is just going to be cliffnotes 101 doctrinal things that they believe will.

Shea Houdmann

Yeah, we will gladly include links to where people can find those videos so they can learn more. Plus yeah, right at 25 to 30 minutes per episode, so there's not even close to enough time for us to cover the topics in depth, so we'll gladly share those links.

Melissa Dougherty

Yeah, and even the the videos themselves is like a few hours. It's a lot, yeah, and another thing to emphasize about this is that sometimes with the Jehovah's Witness, it's more about understanding this thing called Mind control, and it sounds like a sci-fi thing, but it's really not. This is an actual study, and there's a cult expert named Steven Hassan. Which some of you I'm sure I've heard of who is a, he wrote a book called Releasing The Bonds and he used to be a Moonie which was a cult and he came out of the cult and realized oh there's a form to this. There's almost rules to follow and he has something called the bite model and the bite model is a behavior information thought in emotional control. And these four aspects, the Jehovah's Witness organization has so much control over they are in other words they are a textbook cult. And once you read this book and you understand how mind control works. You will see why they are so difficult to reach?

Melissa Dougherty

And so the first thing that I start with in the series is mind control. And if you can understand that you will understand why it's it's hard to get through to them. But that's one thing I want to emphasize before we go over doctrine, 'cause sometimes I believe that it's it's more about that. The spiritual and mental hold up than it is about the actual doctrine. 'cause once you understand this, you'll understand why this funky doctrine exists. Because once you can control somebody's behavior, thoughts, emotions and the information they receive, you can control their entire worldview and you can say whatever you want, so.

Melissa Dougherty

With that I'm going to start first with number one. The Watchtower Society itself. This is the core of everything that undergirds the Jehovah's Witnesses life. This is believed to be the one true religion on Earth. Restored on Earth, the Jehovah's Witnesses. So the watchtower. Organization is God's visible representation on earth. And what this means, it two ways of his witness is if the organization is organized by Jehovah himself. That's equal basically to Jehovah God.

Melissa Dougherty

Alright, so you have Jehovah God, you have Jesus Christ. Then you have the organization. And because this is, this is how we get our information. Then it's directly from Jehovah God you see. So if you're talking against the organization you're talking about against the organization that God reinstated on Earth, so the going as an organization is to go against Jehovah God, and according to them it's through the organization this only organization that God teaches us about the Bible, and this can also be very frustrating because their doctrine changes literally every year.

Melissa Dougherty

So people that are in this ministry, they do a really good job and this is all they do. This is all their ministries dedicated towards our Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons and they keep up with the Jehovah's Witness doctrine every year. They announce it every year at the Convention. They call it new light and to them this is not a bad thing. To them this is a great thing. It means we're getting closer and closer to the truth, which I find to be a little ironic, because the the organization calls themselves the truth.

Melissa Dougherty

The second thing is the divine name. OK, this is important. This is why they call themselves Jehovah's Witnesses. They say it through their watchtower publications, and that's how most people know them is their magazines and going door to door. But you will know a Jehovah's Witness because they bear the name Jehovah. They are taught that there were superstitious Jewish scribes that removed the divine name a long time ago. OK, and they credit themselves with restoring in the Old Testament, where the Tetragrammaton, which is the YHWH they give themselves credit for restoring that in the Old Testament.

Melissa Dougherty

And what's really interesting, and they've they've gotten themselves into some trouble for this a lot of trouble actually, which I'll get into with their Bible version next. But they have restored the divine name to the New Testament as well, but it's demonstrably shown that it never ever occurs in the New Testament, so they kind of go overkill in the Old Testament, but it they have to add it, in other words, to the New Testament to kind of make up for the complete and total utter absence of it in the New Testament and my whole belief behind that is, I believe, in John 16 Jehovah gave Jesus his name, and I thought that was beautiful. When I at one time pointed that out to Jehovah's Witness, and it was a stone in her shoe, it was a great conversation. So I think it's all in that aspect.

Melissa Dougherty

The the other thing also is to the biblically illiterate person on the other side of the door. This is very important. The Jehovah's Witness can easily convince them that the proper use of God name Jehovah, which really it should be Yahweh, Jehovah isn't even close, but they will convince the person that saying the name Jehovah and and bearing that name is proof that you are part of the true religion and that you can truly be saved. In other words, knowing Jehovah's name is essential to your salvation. Being a part of the organization is essential to your salvation.

Melissa Dougherty

Number three is the new world translation I mentioned this before. This is a completely unique Bible translation made by Jehovah's Witnesses for Jehovah's Witness theology. The Bible on your shelf is very different than the Jehovah's Witness version. They have changed many things. And very, very shoddy reasons for why they would change it if there's any sort of excuse or reason to change a Bible verse that will give them any reason to agree with their theology, they'll do it, even though virtually no scholars agree with or endorse the new world translation. The translators are anonymous, which I find interesting. However, if you've read A Crisis Of Conscience, it is a book written by a former governing body member. He kind of outs the translators as being the governing body so they there was no biblical scholars there for the making of the new world translation.

Melissa Dougherty

Number four is the anointed class and other sheep. This is very crucial for the average Christian to understand that Jehovah's Witnesses divide themselves into two classes, the anointed 144,000 and what they call the other sheep, which is by far the majority of Jehovah's Witnesses. The anointed class is the only ones that can be born again, that's a whole other topic on itself. This anointed sheep or this at other sheep and anointed, is a whole topic 'cause it can be very confusing for people. But again, I have to stick with basics, but it's just important to understand that there's two classes. The 144,000 will go to heaven and the other sheep will stay here on Paradise Earth after Armageddon.

Melissa Dougherty

Now to the average Christian that sounds ludicrous like why? Because our understanding of heaven is very different than theirs. To them, the whole idea is that God will restore Earth to paradise Earth like an Eden and in some ways that's not completely untrue, but they don't believe in like a new heaven and new earth, like we do. Heaven is kind of pushing paper. You're you're part of God's government basically, and so if you're anointed, it's kind of like oh well, I guess I have to go do this while you guys go have fun in Paradise Earth, so it's very interesting to understand their perspective on this.

Melissa Dougherty

Fifth is the Trinity. This is very important. Jehovah's Witnesses see the Trinity as evil, man-made and Pagan. Jesus is not God, he is a created being. We discussed this before he is Michael D. Archangel, he's the first creation of Jehovah God. Michael ceased to be Michael became Jesus to ransom us, and then when he died, he went back to be Michael the Archangel and also the Holy Spirit is not a person, the Holy Spirit they equate more to like electricity, an impersonal force they call it. Next is soul sleep in hell. They do not believe in hell at all. They believe in annihilation. So when someone dies, they interestingly believe what I would consider in my opinion a belief that's closer to an atheistic belief where you just cease to exist.

Melissa Dougherty

Then what would be considered Orthodox Christian belief? It's very interesting. And if you are worthy enough to be remembered by Jehovah God after Armageddon comes and Paradise Earth is here, then you will be resurrected on Paradise earth. It's very interesting how they see that. Next is shunning. If you are Jehovah's Witness and you get disfellowshipped from the organization you will be utterly shunned by everyone you know until you've done enough good graces to get back into the organization. And when I say shunned I mean they won't even look at you. They won't talk to you, nothing and they

believe this is loving and there are tons of former Jehovah's Witness testimonies about, oh, the horrible damage that will do. It's absolutely awful.

Melissa Dougherty

Next is Armageddon. This is huge. This has a lot to do with our end times belief this is the constant threat in the mind of the Jehovah's witness. I've heard Jehovah's Witnesses, former Jehovah's Witnesses, an active, faithful, Jehovah's Witness will never actually admit this, they can't say these things, it's only when they leave that they really have the freedom to express this stuff, but they they have nightmares, panic attacks. Like the fear instilled in their mind over Armageddon is is very real. This is the constant threat of the Jehovah's Witness that Armageddon will come any day, and you better find yourself working. You better find yourself going to door to door and doing all the work of Jehovah's Organization. Or else you might die at Armageddon, and if you die at Armageddon and you will not be resurrected to paradise earth.

Melissa Dougherty

Armageddon is the time where Jehovah God, according to their theology, will destroy the whole Earth. Everything of Satan system. Everything that's worldly. To accept the Jehovah's Witnesses, then they will rebuild the Earth to Paradise Earth and then God. I mean, there's a, there's a whole lot of me doing this that I'm leaving out. But that's when God will resurrect majority of mankind, if not all of mankind that's ever lived to hear the good news again, it's very that's it's again, it's nuanced.

Melissa Dougherty

Next is salvation. How are you saved right? It's salvation plus works. So in other words, you must join the Jehovah's Witness religion. And do the works of the Jehovah's Witness religion in order to be saved. And even then you may not even know. You may not even know if you're ever going to be saved. You can lose your salvation at any point. Lots of pressure.

Melissa Dougherty

Next, I have two more. Next is birthdays, politics, holidays and crosses. The simplest way I'm going to put all of that in a package is it's all Pagan and worldly. Uhm crosses everything. I have a theory that one of the reasons, especially with Mormons as well. One of the reasons why I believe that Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons hate the cross so much is because Satan hates the cross. I just have a theory about that. There's a hatred, a disgust that they have towards the cross that's more similar to what Satan would view then God. I think that's very interesting, but I think that's one reason why they hate it so much. They avoid all of these things, birthdays, holidays, politics because they believe that they either have pagan origins or they're just worldly and we need to be, we don't. We don't need to be like the world.

Melissa Dougherty

Next is what I find this to be very interesting. They don't baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I've been to many of their conventions and their assemblies and their memorials, which, by the way, their memorial is coming up, they view it around this time around Easter and I I used to go to those every year and it's really sad that that whole again that whole thing could be another whole other conversation because they they don't partake in the offering that they do in the supper. The the whole

ceremony that we do. They don't partake in that, so it's kind of sad, but these are the questions that you will be asked at a Jehovah's Witness baptism.

Melissa Dougherty

Yeah, they they do this at the convention at the end of the talk, the speaker will invite people up who want to be baptized. This is the first question. Have you been repented of your sins? Dedicated yourself to Jehovah and accepted his way of salvation through Jesus Christ?

Melissa Dougherty

Second question, this is interesting. You understand that your baptism identifies you as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, in association with Jehovah's Organization, and this wording changed. It used to be God Spirit led organization, but there is no Father, Son and Holy Spirit, they will say, oh, it's it's Father Jehovah God son they mentioned Christ, and Holy Spirit, you know the organization and no. So I think it's interesting you are giving your life to the organization, not to Christ. Very big difference, and I said there's two more.

Melissa Dougherty

There's actually one more very, very brief. To the average Christian, it must be understood that anything apart from the Jehovah's Witness organization is considered part of Satan's system. This is important to understand when interacting with them because they have the truth. You are the lost one. You are the one that's lost in Satan's system and they have they bear Jehovah's name, so they have the truth. So there's like this, uh, support, like a superiority complex spiritually that they have about the truth and you're the one that's in Satan, Satan's grasp. So those are 12 things that I think that would suffice to briefly mention the doctrine of the Jehovah's Witnesses for the average Christian to know.

Shea Houdmann

And each of the points each of those items that you brought up are things we've been asked about, or by Christians, or been confronted by with Jehovah's Witnesses. At the beginning I mentioned the holidays, things that's just fresh. It's like they they come out every Easter and Christmas, especially just like how can you Christians be celebrating all these Pagan things? And to be honest, this is one thing I actually do have a little bit of respect for Jehoavah's witnesses. Because yes, there are some culturally pagan things attached with how most people celebrate Christmas and Easter, but at the same time, Jesus was crucified and resurrected around the time of Passover. Isn't that not worth celebrating? So it's so many fascinating conversations we can have. But like 144,000, we have an article on it. I think maybe even two articles and almost every time someone asks us about it, is something along the lines of is it true that only 144,000 people go to heaven? And that's a doctrine straight outta Jehovah's witnesses.

Shea Houdmann

It's just. It's amazing how influential they are even far beyond their numbers in terms of spreading some false beliefs about some of these things, some of them really important. Obviously, Jesus being Michael the Archangel, the Trinity, salvation by faith alone denying those things. Those are core doctrines of the Christian faith and some of the end time stuff, I'd view it as weird, but a lot of people have weird beliefs about the end time, so while I disagree with Jehovah witnesses on the end times it's far more important to discuss some of the, where they differ from us in the core doctrines of the faith.

Melissa Dougherty

Absolutely yeah yeah. And with the the other thing too is blood transfusions and they have been under scrutiny as well with their policies on child predators. That's a whole other topic, but it's pretty big Leah Remini, she used to be a Scientologist and she has her series about Scientology. And she did a episode which I would refer people to by the way about the Jehovah's Witness religion. There's been quite a few documentaries. There's been one on. There's a women channel it was on, but talking about the pedophilia within the organization. They will protect the pedophiles and it's documented and that's the thing with the Jehovah's Witnesses as they write down everything, they keep rigid documentation which for somebody like me who's an apologist I'm like, thank you. 'cause you say there's a paper trail, a demonstrable paper trail to these things.

Melissa Dougherty

And the so I would I would encourage people to look into that as well. Because they have something called, they they and again they bring the Bible into this right they they say, oh, it's biblical. It is not is. It is not biblical to protect pedophiles, I don't care what scripture you're quoting. It's it's not OK.

Melissa Dougherty

And then the blood transfusions, which is very nuanced and interesting, kind of weird double standards with that. But they don't. They're known for not accepting blood transfusions. So yeah, these are the things that define them in in that sense. So yeah, just tacking on two more things to know about them.

Shea Houdmann

Yeah, exactly and again, like for every point you've mentioned is the stuff that we've been asked about many, many times and I think we have articles dedicated to the topics, both from a purely biblical sense, but also in a how to respond to Jehovah's Witness type of sense so, so a Jehovah's witness knocks on your door or two of them, they always go in twos? I believe so.

Melissa Dougherty

They always go in twos. Yes, unless they're married and it's usually it's it's married couples or it's two of the same gender.

Shea Houdmann

OK, so a Christian who is now confronted with Jehovah's witness at their door, aside from closing the door and tell him to go away, what is the the key to one, knowing how to respond to their the arguments that they make and two, how to point them to the true Jesus Christ God Incarnate God in the flesh and salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. What are the keys? What are some of the things you've learned over the years in attempting to ministering to Jehovah's Witnesses that could make our witness to them more effective.

Melissa Dougherty

Yes, so first I mentioned Ron Rhodes book. He has one of the best books on this in my opinion. About that, you know, like how you can approach them effectively, and this is usually what happens with a lot of Christians is A they either don't understand what a Jehovah's Witness believes, B, which I understand

man, you're busy and it takes dedication sometimes to really visit with the Jehovah Witness, but if you do know something about them and you do have the time, one thing, for example, a quick thing that you could probably do.

Melissa Dougherty

Ray Comfort, I believe I'm going to credit him with that because I'm pretty sure it was him. Said, you know, hey, there's a knife in my back. I have 5 minutes to live what can you tell me about how can I be saved? 'cause the Jehovah's Witness doesn't believe that. You cannot have a deathbed confession and be saved, kind of like, well, you have to get baptized. You have to join the organization. You have to go door to door. Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo and it can bring up a good conversation about grace because to them they're they have to earn it.

Melissa Dougherty

So I think that that's a good starting point to start that off, but also my favorite thing to do. I like to get them off the beaten path. This is fun. And I think it's fun because it's like I like intellectually stimulating conversations. But you need to challenge them in ways that they've basically not been drilled mindlessly in. Right, so I like to go for the jugular which is the organization. This is not something they're taught to defend.

Melissa Dougherty

The three things that the Jehovah's Witnesses are taught to defend militantly as far as what they believe, and they hate more than anything when it comes to doctrine, soul sleep, hell, and the Trinity. I would avoid those three things at first. Don't go there because those are the things that I mean, go there eventually, but not at your door. These are the things every week throughout the week for years on end, the Jehovah's Witnesses taught over and over and over and over and over again that it's demonic, it's evil, it's Pagan.

Melissa Dougherty

I mean, you're talking about undoing something very ironclad, so I go this way, I'm like oh what haven't you researched? You probably don't know much about your organization 'cause you're not allowed to research it. So tell me about this, you know? Again, I go over a lot more detail in my series, but I would take on the student role. 'cause when you take on the student role and you're asking thought provoking, provoking questions. They have to provide those answers and you don't look like a jerk. You look like you're curious, you know. And once again, once you understand who and what you're talking to, you figure out these strategic, the strategy to talk to them.

Melissa Dougherty

Secondly, I would always say that to understand the Jehovah's Witness there has to be an element of you understanding what they believe, so you know how you sound to them. You know so. I, I think this is just good. I think this is just being wise. Knowing your opponent's position so that whenever you say something, you automatically know how that's going to make it sound so you can even change your verbiage. Like for example, instead of cross. They believe that Jesus died on a stake, right? They don't believe that Jesus died on a cross. They believe He died on a stake so you might want to swallow your pride a little bit and instead of using cross. Say stake you know. Knowing their terminology instead of

grace, it's undeserved kindness. You will by 10 times, in my opinion, influence them more if you use their own language. There's a great advantage of this to this because it's like having the answers to the test before you take the test. You know, it's like you already know what they're going to say. You know their strategies.

Melissa Dougherty

Let's see. There's more here. Oh yes, the the other thing with Ron Rhodes book. He talks a lot about the does and don'ts when coming to confront a Jehovah's Witness and he, Walter Martin, who's a cult expert, he has a list of does and don'ts for not approaching a Jehovah witness as well, which you can actually find online. I would say also never approach a Jehovah's Witness with a spiritual chip on your shoulder. I think that especially now in the days of the Internet we, I think we take the whole speaking the truth. Seriously, that's great, but in love, forget that. Who cares about that? I mean, telling them that they're in a cult isn't going to do anything you know, a lot of people do have a spiritual chip on their shoulder, which I think interesting says a lot more about us than them. You will get much accomplished if you form a relationship with them first in my opinion, it's always best to try to get an ongoing visit with them instead of a quick visit if you can.

Melissa Dougherty

Understanding their concept of sin is important as well because they believe that Jesus died for our what they call Adamic sin and not our personal sin. So if you can open up your Bible and show scriptures about how Jesus did indeed like First Peter three talking about how Jesus died for, on the tree, for our our sins, like our transgressions. Not just Adam's sin. Showing them scriptures that they haven't seen. 'cause you have to understand because there's two categories of Jehovah's Witnesses. Most Jehovah's Witnesses believe half most of the Bible doesn't apply to them. So how are you going to? How are you going to get the Jehovah's Witness to think? And you can even use their own Bible by the way doing this. 'cause if they see it in their own Bible you it's hard to unsee and the the Holy Spirit does a lot of this work for you as well.

Melissa Dougherty

I would say witnessing to a Jehovah's witness is not a presentation. It's a conversation. This is important. And at the end of the day, this is the most important thing. You cannot do the Holy Spirit's work no matter what you can do. You can be as prepared as you can, but at the end of the day, your success in bringing a Jehovah's Witness to Christ depends on the Holy Spirit 's work in their life.

Melissa Dougherty

So in this case, I would say never underestimate the power of prayer. That's probably the biggest thing I've seen in all these years in ministry is you will, I've never known of a Jehovah's Witness being converted in someone living room, but I have seen that it's start there and then the ongoing prayer for that Jehovah's Witness and they have someone to talk to once they start having doubts.

Melissa Dougherty

So those are the basic things that I would I would say also one of my favorite things, scriptures real quickly to bring up to a Jehovah's Witness is Romans 8. If I were to bring up a scripture to kind of get a, put a stone in the shoe of the Jehovah's Witness, it would be Romans 8, and here's why because they

don't believe that they can be born again, right and for us as Christians who know our Bible, we know the repercussions of that. You know that's that's huge. They they have a faulty understanding of born again, but Romans 8 speaks about pleasing God and about how God's spirit dwells in you. And unless God's spirit dwells in you as a child of God, it's impossible to please him. You cannot please God unless you have the spirit of God dwelling in you as a child of God.

Melissa Dougherty

So I take them through these scriptures and I'm like, well, how do you please them? How is this possible for you? And I have never seen a Jehovah's Witness know how to answer that question. It's a really great stone in their shoe and let let them save face, I think that's important as well, because I think a Jehovah's Witness will kind of want to make excuses for why they may not understand that. Let them save face and let the Holy Spirit do that work. If the seed has been planted, the stone is there. And so yeah, those are the basics of what I would say in regards to that question.

Shea Houdmann

Awesome. Melissa thank you much for those points. You've taught me a lot about Jehovah's Witnesses and I have quite a bit of experience, but I'm not so much in person, mostly in writing, so some things for me to definitely remember and put into practice the next time I have the opportunity.

Shea Houdmann

So again, you describe this as kind of a teaser about the Jehovah Witnesses, and there's so many things we could discuss. We'll include links to where you can learn more about Melissa's ministry to Jehovah's witnesses through her videos in the show notes at podcast.gotquestions.org and also in the description on YouTube when this video goes live. So Melissa thank you for being on the show we really appreciate your insight and your expertise.

Melissa Dougherty

Great yeah. Thank you so much for having me and thank you for talking about a very important topic.

Shea Houdmann

Agreed, and again the questions we receive, whether it's from Jehovah's Witnesses or from people who've been exposed to Jehovah's witnesses or people who've just heard about what Jehovah's witness believes are some of these are really important questions that really important topics. So definitely wanted our audience to be better informed about who the Jehovah's witnesses are and what they believe. And you definitely accomplished that today. So thank you.

Melissa Dougherty

You are welcome.

Shea Houdmann

This has been the Got Questions podcast. Got questions? The Bible has answers. We'll help you find them.