

Proclaiming the Gospel

Message
of
Jesus Christ

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).*

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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"Sir, We Would See Jesus"

So you want to see Jesus? To be so close to Him as to see Him in His glory?

You have seen His miracles – the sick healed, the demoniac delivered, the dead raised, the thousands fed, but – you want more? You want to experience the presence and power of His glory?

There is a cost!

A crowd followed Jesus as He went from Bethany to Jerusalem. Many believed because of the raising of Lazarus. Among the people were some Greeks who came to Philip and said, "**Sir, we would see Jesus**" (John 12.21).

Philip and Andrew then told Jesus. Scripture does not say whether the Greeks saw Him, but it does give us Jesus' answer to their request – a strange answer at first glance (John 12.23-33): "And Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour is come that the Son of man should be glorified.'"

He did not stop there. He went on to talk of death and resurrection – His death as well as that of any who would serve Him, who would truly **see** Him.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit (Jn 12.24).

Certainly this verse speaks of Jesus' dying and rising again that He might bring forth fruit, members of His Body; but it also applies to those who would serve Him. Verse 25 puts our natural life in proper perspective when we choose to serve the Lord.

"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." Beloved, if we love life in this world, as the carnal, sinful man would live it, the comforts and pleasures of the world, we shall lose it. Only when we hate it in comparison with the life through the Lord Jesus Christ will we truly keep life – eternal life.

Jesus calls us to hate all that speaks of "normal" life, to hate the life that is formed and controlled by our will, so that we might keep life eternal and serve and follow Him. He calls us to death that we might live.

Brothers and sisters, there is a work to be done; it is a ministry required of the Body of Christ. Too long the Church has been weak! Too long we have loved our lives, and we have lost Life; His life does not flow strongly within our veins, and we are unfruitful. Let us love Jesus so much that we hate our lives as we would live them in this world. Let us surrender to Him our sinful natures and all that is us.

Let us serve Him and follow Him. Let us surrender to death that we might come forth in newness of life, life in Him, the outflow of the power of the Holy Spirit doing the work that Jesus came to accomplish through His Church.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31)

In the midst of telling of His death, Jesus says if one would serve Him, let him follow Him, follow Him in His death and resurrection. The Son of man would be glorified by this process of falling into the ground, dying, and coming forth in new life to produce fruit. One who wants to see Jesus must **experience** what Jesus did upon the Cross and in rising from the grave.

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be...”

Where I am when I am spit upon and beaten, there shall my servant be.

Where I am when feeling forsaken by the Father, there shall my servant be.

Where I am when crucified, there shall my servant be.

Where I am when dead and buried, there shall my servant be.

But also –

Where I am when raised from the dead, there shall my servant be – there shall my servant be, walking in “newness of life;” there shall my servant be producing fruit.

Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [*in the likeness*] of [*his*] resurrection:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [*him*], that the body of sin might be destroyed . . .

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: (Romans 6.4, 5, 6a, 8).

There shall my servant be, doing the same works that I do – and greater works . . .

There, where I am, is my servant allowing Me to live in and work through him, my Body.

Where I am, there is my servant.

Do you want to see Jesus? **Really** see Him? Do you want to know Him, really know Him in His resurrection power in your life – at any cost? Are you willing to surrender your will, your sinful nature, and die to self that He shall live in you, that you shall know Him? Just how much do you love Jesus?

We often think we would like to be like Peter – what power of the Holy Spirit in his life! History says that Peter died by being crucified upside down. What a great prophet was Isaiah! It is believed that he was “sawn asunder.” Stephen did great miracles and boldly spoke God’s Word. He saw Jesus standing on the right hand of the Father – just before he, Stephen, cried, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” and died (Acts 7.59-60). Perhaps another great

servant of the Lord comes to mind: Daniel, the three Hebrew children, Esther – all were called to face death.

How they loved God!

No, not everyone is called to a martyr’s death, but we all are called to follow Jesus through His death – and resurrection.

Just how is it possible to follow Jesus to such an extent? Jesus tells us *The Way* in John 12.24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

I remember studying this passage after I had planted beans in a small vegetable garden. I dug in the soil to look at a bean and follow the development of new life. The bean was swollen to double its size, saturated with water; however, the outer portion had begun to die and slough off. Periodically, I looked at another bean to continue my study.

The inner kernel began to show through the “eye” as the sides of the bean gave way, and the shoot of life from the inside grew. Roots started reaching deeper into the soil, the food for hearty growth; and the shoot of life sought the light through the soil. Once I found a bean that had landed in the dirt upside down. This bean remained in that position, but the shoot immediately turned upward toward the light.

Three things are required for us to experience life in Christ: 1) The water of the Holy Spirit, thoroughly absorbed within until our own carnal nature begins to decay and the dead tissue sloughs off, allowing Christ to come forth 2) The soil of the Word, a firm foundation of nourishment to promote growth 3) The light of the Holy Spirit shed on us, revealing the Truth in the Word, both the written Word and living Word.

When those beans reached the light and continued growing, nothing was left of the old bean. The fruit of those vines, picked often, brought nourishment to us. As we abide in Christ and He in us, we can expect those in need to find nourishment of the Holy Spirit through us. **But** there is no shortcut. **If** we are to minister life in Christ to others, we must follow Jesus through death and resurrection: “Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone...” (John 12.24).

Just how much do you love Jesus? Jesus said, “...if any man serve me, him will my Father honour” (v 26c); yes, it costs to serve Jesus. It costs to follow Him through His sufferings, His crucifixion and death, but what greater privilege than to be His vessel – one who truly **SEES** Jesus in His purpose on earth, one in whom His resurrection life flows. Would it not be worth all sacrifice to be honored of the Father? To know the thrill of His favor?