

Just Jesus
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2.26.20

Tonight I want to talk about something that is very near and dear to my heart. It's something that has been burning in me and I can't get away from it. I'm going to talk about Jesus tonight. By a show of hands how many of you love Jesus? How many of you are satisfied with the amount of Jesus you have?

First Love? Or Only Love

Revelation 2:2-5 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

2 I know your industry *and* activities, laborious toil *and* trouble, and your patient endurance, and how you cannot tolerate wicked [men] and have tested *and* critically appraised those who call [themselves] apostles (special messengers of Christ) and yet are not, and have found them to be impostors *and* liars.

3 I know you are enduring patiently and are bearing up for My name's sake, and you have not fainted *or* become exhausted *or* grown weary.

4 But I have this [one charge to make] against you: that you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first [you have deserted Me, your first love].

5 Remember then from what heights you have fallen. Repent (change the inner man to meet God's will) and do the works you did previously [when first you knew the Lord], or else I will visit you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you change your mind *and* repent.

1. **Repent**- to turn from your sin & will towards God and His Will.
2. **Do the work**- to have what you fell in love with, you must do what you first did

We have our eyes on so many things but I want to submit to you that Jesus is the only thing worthy of our gaze. We have misunderstood who Jesus is. He is not the main point. He is the Point. He isn't the addition to our life. He is Life.

Exodus 34:14- His name is Jealous

He does not want any competition. Jesus can't be a priority. He has to be it. If He is on a list with other priorities that means that at any moment He can go from #1 to #2. It means that He can be compared with other things. The beauty of it all is that He deeply loves you to the point where He will compete for your affection and devotion.

3 ways to get back to your first love

1. Gaze

To be astonished, to fix the eye or to reach with the eye; to view with fixed attention

Faith plays a part

It takes faith to look to Jesus.

Hebrews 11:6 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

6 But without faith it is impossible to please *and* be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly *and* diligently seek Him [out].

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith can get me anything and take me anywhere in the Kingdom of God. But without faith there is no approaching God, no forgiveness, no deliverance, no salvation, no communion with God. But looking to Jesus keeps the lifestyle of faith at the forefront of my life.

"Faith is the gaze of a soul upon a saving God."- A.W. Tozer

"Believing, then, is directing the heart's attention to Jesus."- A.W. Tozer

So this beholding the Lamb that John speaks of is simply an inward gaze. (John 1:29)

**Motorcycle wreck story-In motorcycle class they teach you to look at where you're going. If you don't look at where you're going then you won't end up at your intended destination.

2. Thirst

A want and eager desire after any thing

Revelation 22:17 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

17 The [Holy] Spirit and the bride (the church, the true Christians) say, Come! And let him who is listening say, Come! And let everyone come who is thirsty [who is painfully conscious of his need [a]of those things by which the soul is refreshed, supported, and strengthened]; and whoever [earnestly] desires to do it, let him come, take, appropriate, *and* drink the water of Life without cost.

John 4:13-14 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

13 Jesus answered her, All who drink of this water will be thirsty again.

14 But whoever takes a drink of the water that I will give him shall never, no never, be thirsty any more. But the water that I will give him shall become a spring of water welling up (flowing, bubbling) [continually] within him unto (into, for) eternal life.

When you thirst for anything other than Jesus you will never be satisfied. Jesus is the only thing that satisfies. Not sex, drugs, television, sleep, houses, cars, big salaries. In fact, the more of Jesus you have the less you desire that other stuff. The apostle Paul says, he possesses nothing but yet possesses all things!

With Jesus there is a living between the satisfied and not being satisfied. What do I mean by that? He is the only thing that satisfies you and yet you aren't satisfied until you have more of Him.

Do you yearn for more of Jesus? Take a drink! Is He the first thing on your mind in the morning? If not there is more... take another drink!

Ask the Father to give you a thirst for Him! - John 6:44

John 4:28-29 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

28 Then the woman left her water jar and went away to the town. And she began telling the people,

29 Come, see a Man Who has told me everything that I ever did! Can this be [is not this] the Christ? [Must not this be the Messiah, the Anointed One?]

The woman at the well left her waterpot- *her* means of finding satisfaction. She had taken a drink and needed to tell everyone! People that have a deep burning desire for Jesus can't help but to tell others about Him!

3. Abide

To rest or dwell; to continue permanently or in the same state; to be firm and immovable

Luke 10:38-42 King James Version (KJV)

Only One Thing is Needed

38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

This generation is obsessed with exhaustion. We call it grinding! Working/serving others does not take the place of a real relationship with Jesus. Those things flow out of a real relationship with Jesus.

Time with Jesus is never wasted time. It seems that it takes more discipline to just be with Jesus. To just rest in His presence. It's in His presence that you learn of/from Him.

3 Things Mary taught us from sitting at Jesus' feet:

1. **Sitting at His feet is all that is needed.** (Jesus isn't as interested in our serving)

Serving God starts at His feet and partaking. It does not start behind the coffee bar, or on the worship team. Serving is the overflow of my partaking of Jesus. I can love/serve others better when I love Jesus more.

Many of us have more faith in our practices and programs than we do in God and His Word. We think that because we go through the motions of praying, it's supposed to work out. We think because we go through the motions of tithing that our finances will turn around. Nothing will work unless your heart is attached to it. If your heart is attached to Jesus then you'll pray and seek Him because you yearn for Him. You'll give because it's an act of worship! It's a sign that you trust Him as your Provider!

2. **There is peace at His feet.** (unaffected by distractions, stresses, and worries)

I know you want to know how to be successful, and how to have a good marriage, and what moves to make.... The answer to all of those questions is Jesus. To say Jesus is the answer isn't a cop out... but you'll learn that you'll save more time and energy if you go to the one from whom all things are from, through, and to. With her eyes on Jesus, she didn't have a care in the world. This is why we teach you to praise and worship Him in the storm. Praise is a

weapon. But I want to submit to you that the person that loves Jesus praises before the storm, in the storm, and after the storm. That's just like prayer. The person that prays has probably avoided more disaster in their life simply because they pray!

3. **Sitting at His feet pleases Him.** (She chose the part that He would not take from her)

Jesus didn't think Mary was being lazy or inconsiderate. He thought,

"This is my child and she is hanging on my every word. She has realized that I am Life and I've come to give it to her in abundance. She realizes that I am Her Source. And there is nothing she can provide for me other than her worship; attention, affection. So here she is sitting at my feet." And Jesus would not dream of getting you involved in anything that would take you away from Him

You need to make choices like that in life when it comes to getting involved with things. Years ago I contemplated joining a fraternity in college. My father-in-law asked me one question that has helped me make wise decisions with my time since that day. He asked me if it would take away my time with God.

To this day, I'm not involved in a lot of things. The few things I have going on in my life right now keep me busy enough.

Action Points:

1. **Gaze:** Don't make Him a priority. Make Him your Source. Develop an awareness of His presence.
2. **Thirst:** Come to the well everyday! Find satisfaction in Him
3. **Abide:** Stay at His feet and hang onto His every Word.