

# "Jesus . . . Oh, to Love Him More!"

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Sunday, June 28, 2009

- We sing, preach, live for, and read about Jesus, but sometimes it's good to do what the song says, "You are the center of my focus, Jesus!"

- Sometimes we make Jesus our need 'meet-er', provider, healer, Savior . . . but let's focus on Jesus, Himself!
- God had angels, and gave them 'freewill'. We know this because the angel, Lucifer, was filled with pride with all the good things God had given him, and he made a choice to be above God. Of course he couldn't. He lost his place of authority, glory and honor, and was kicked out of Heaven.
- God created man because He had such a hunger for fellowship, for family. He created man in His image, seated him in the Garden, giving man complete dominion and authority.
- Satan came disguised as a beautiful serpent to Eve, causing her to take her focus off of God, to see the tree, and the fruit that looked good!
- In Genesis 3, in the Garden, Adam made the choice to take the fruit offered by Eve. Adam voluntarily gave the authority God had given him to the devil, letting Satan legally own and be in charge of this world.
- BUT God is God, far above, and He had a plan from the beginning to give man a free will to choose, knowing there was a possibility man would be disobedient. So God made a way to cover man's sin through Jesus, from the foundations of the world . . . before we ever sinned.
- **Genesis 3:14 (NKJV)** So the LORD God said to the serpent: " Because you have done this, you *are* cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity (strife)between you and the woman,
- When God spoke this to Satan, he went on a rampage, and said he would put conflict between man and woman.
- Why do you think the woman is so oppressed in the world, especially in countries where they do not believe in Jesus? Because that's the territory of Satan from the beginning of time. In every nation where Jesus is not Lord their women are abused, demeaned, squashed in every way, and do not have rights. That nation's god is operating under the enemy.
- **Genesis 3:15b (NKJV)** And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head,  
**Genesis 3:15b (Amplified)** He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel.
- This scripture means there is somebody that is coming out of the woman that is very important, and this Man will bruise and stomp on Satan's head. Satan will only will be able to 'nip at his heel as a puppy', but have no authority over him.
- From the time in the garden, Satan looked for the 'one' who would bruise his head, and stomp on him. As a result, people who had pagan gods offered their children as sacrifices to appease their false gods. Children have been abused and sacrificed all through history. Satan still is on a rampage against the male seed, and has tried from then to now to kill the children
- King Herod told soldiers to kill all male children from 2 years old and under (stomp on your head) because he was terrified of this seed being born. But God spoke to Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt.

- We come to God through the blood of Jesus, becoming a new creature in Jesus, leaving behind guilt and sin. Jesus helps us to become more like Him. You cannot become more like Him unless you know Him, and you can't 'know' Him without talking to Him, and thinking on Him. Bring your focus on Jesus!
- We are made in God's image! We are above other creation and have authority over it.
- God sent Jesus to become flesh, walk as a man, be tempted in every way, unjustly accused, hung on a cross, and didn't just take on our sin and ugliness, but became our sin and ugliness, for all people from the beginning of time.
- **II Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- We have no idea what Jesus endured when He took on all our sin.
- We have compartmentalized our lives/our hearts: church part, Jesus part, etc. There is a story that goes like this. Jesus took a man on a tour of a house. First room they visited was the family room. All the friends/family/relationships were in there having a good time. They didn't notice Jesus was there. Then they went to the noisy media room with iPods, TV's, telephones, computers, etc., where again everyone was having a good time. Then to the office: jobs, things people do for employment; then the hobby room with fishing poles, race cars, crafts, etc.; in none of these rooms did anybody acknowledge Jesus. Then they went to the trophy room. In this room a man was there shining his trophies. The man realized Jesus was in the room, and said, "Hi." Then he went back to shining his trophies (his accomplishments). Jesus said there is no room for me in this life anywhere.
- I was crying out to God last night about how distracted my life is, and thought of the story of Martha and Mary.
- How many of us have a place for Jesus in our life, and no other? He's our creator, our daddy; He's awesome and beautiful!
- I love my grandkids, and my children. When I don't see them for awhile, I miss them. It's the same way with God. He misses us so much when He doesn't hear from us. He wants to hear from us.
- He wants us to talk to Him about our concerns. He will give us the provision we need, the peace, the joy!
- We can survive the pressure of the depths of deep water with an air line and the appropriate suit. It's the same in life. As we go deeper into the cares of life, Jesus is our air line/life line!
- **Matthew 24**, Jesus says there will be hard times, perilous times, men's heart failing them from fear of things happening, and the enemy putting pressure on them. If we make wrong move, kink life line, cut it off.
- You must know Jesus as your Lord and Savior. The moral course of our nation is on a path of destruction. If you say our nation is not a nation where God is Lord, you are not blessed anymore.
- **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)** If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
- Pray for our president, and those in authority, cover them in prayer, not criticism. We MUST pray daily for our leaders! We are also commanded to pray for the peace of Israel, and we're given blessings if we do.
- **Psalms 33:12 (NKJV)** Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD
- Our focus must return to the Jesus, who is the pivotal point in history. The Cross of Jesus has to be tattooed on your heart to be your focus!
- History from the beginning of time is one arm of the cross; Jesus is the center of cross; the other arm is from the time Jesus was crucified until history is no more.
- Is He the center of your focus? Does He have keys to all rooms of your house (heart)? Is there a room where it is just for Him? Can He have full access to your life (to your computer, cable, pay-for-view, bank account)? Wouldn't it be nice if Jesus' signature also had to be on each of our checks, He was our CFO (Chief Financial Officer)!
- **Proverbs 3:9-10 (NKJV)** Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase<sup>10</sup> So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.
- Words to a song: "You are my sun and my shield, you are my lover from the start, and the highway to your city runs through my heart."
- Bring Jesus back to the center focus of your life! Have fun, laugh, enjoy your life, take vacations, but if any 'thing' keeps you from church every week (golf, etc.) that has become your 'god'! Be all God has called you to be, but make sure every room of your life has a place for the throne of Jesus.
- Pray: Jesus, be everything to me, walk through every room of my life; I give you permission to examine every room. Show me things to throw away and that have no eternal value, and are detrimental to me, a hindrance, a stumbling block, a waste of time . . . time I could be spending with you. Stand up in the center of my life, a welcomed presence, communing friend to friend, leading me by your peace. Graciously walk into my life, make me what you want me to be, a light in the days ahead, a vessel you can work through, looking more like you.