



“Lord, We Want to See You”

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“Now some Greeks were among those who went up to worship at the festival.

*So they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee,
and requested of him, ‘Sir, we want to see Jesus.’” John 12:21*



Lord, It’s All About You! This, our sobering and centering declaration for 2019 places a demand upon us and, hopefully, a desire within us to now, see the Lord more clearly and completely in this New Year. There is so much today that threatens to blur, distort, or even worse, eclipse, our view of Christ. The relentless preoccupation with ourselves – our dreams and dilemmas, our plans and problems, our hopes and hurts – conflicts and competes with our capacity to see Him. The lyrics of two songs from the past come to mind. Since we believe that “Jesus [still] is the Answer for the World Today,” then it seems only right that “Everybody Ought to Know Who Jesus Is.” Our 2020 theme, then, reflects the global hunger of humanity for Christ. It can be heard from those who know and those who need to know Him – those who see and those who need to see Him.

First, “Lord, We Want to See You,” is a cry from the heart of those who know Him. Discipleship involves a significant degree of learning by living in close proximity with one’s mentor or mentee. For the disciple, it requires interest in, instruction from, interaction with and, ultimately, imitation of his/her teacher. Those first disciples who walked with Jesus so valued His call or invitation to follow Him that they abandoned careers and relationships in order to be with him, to learn from Him, and to truly see Him. Although He is not here with us physically, the requirements of discipleship have not diminished. Through the Scriptures, the Spirit and the mature saints among us, a clear, composite and compelling picture of the Christ we are to follow must be painted and pursued, ensuring that His disciple-making enterprise remains in full operation until He returns.

We, who know Him, should desire to fulfill the divine expectation that we be conformed into His image (Rom. 8:29). There is no substitute for quality time spent in the presence of Christ, praying, worshipping, and communing with Him. Paul writes, “We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). May the Lord cultivate in us a strong desire to see Him more completely and clearly as this year progresses. May we be intentional about seeing Him more immediately and intimately “until Christ be formed” in us (Gal. 4:19).

Secondly, “Lord, We Want to See You,” is a cry from the heart of those who need to see Him. Like the Greeks in the scripture above, many have heard enough about Jesus that a growing curiosity concerning Him is stirring within them. Zachaeus and Nicodemus were two others in the New Testament who were drawn to Christ by what they had heard about him. When such interest is aroused, it behooves those who know Christ to remain prepared with appropriate responses to their inquiries. We must familiarize ourselves with the witness of Him recorded in the Bible and humbly share it with

them (1 Pet. 3:15). We also should be able to point seekers to Him through our own stories of His transformational presence and power in our lives.

Lastly, let's remember that there are those who have never heard anything about Jesus – ever. Because we know Him and are benefiting from His sacrificial, substitutionary and supernatural works, we should have concern and compassion for those who stand to miss these same, FREE benefits, both in this present life and in eternity. Forgiveness, freedom, redemption, reconciliation, peace, power, grace, gifting, love and life are but a few of the many blessings being forfeited by people simply because they have not been reached with the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus, the Christ. Jesus said, “But I have other sheep that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also...” (Jn. 10:16 CSB). Unlike the Greeks mentioned above, these lost people may not desire to see Him (yet); but they sure deserve to see Him, and to know Him, worship Him and serve Him.

Courageously, consistently and compassionately, people need to see their need for Christ through us. Like John, the Baptizer (John 1:19-37), the Woman at the Well (John 4:28-30), and the four friends carrying their friend on the stretcher (Mark 2:1-5), our job is to point people to Jesus, knowing that if they ever truly see Him, many will want Him, trust Him, receive Him and begin a journey of endless life with Him, marked by grateful worship and faithful service.

It's clear from His closing words before ascending to heaven that Jesus is depending upon us to so represent Him that many will see and follow Him today: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19-20 CSB).