

## SIR, WE WISH TO SEE JESUS

Text: John 12:20-21

INTRO: Even before Philip was appointed to the apostleship, he was inviting his friends to "Come and see" Jesus, Jn. 1:43-46. After he had been following Jesus for about three & a half years, it was Philip to whom certain individuals came, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Today, when many preachers are holding forth about civil rights, human rights, animal rights & women's right to an abortion, surely there are still a few hungering, thirsting souls, who would like to cry out to the preachers of today, "Sirs, we want to know about Jesus." And if 21<sup>st</sup> century preachers will preach the 1<sup>st</sup> century gospel, men can still see Jesus through the eye of faith. They can know the love of Jesus, the will of Jesus, and experience the joy of having a right relationship with God. Sirs, we would see Jesus. In order that we may "see" Jesus thru the eye of faith, let us walk thru some of the experiences that 1<sup>st</sup> century disciples were privileged to walk thru.

### I. LET US BOW BEFORE THE MANGER, AS GOD SENDS HIS SON INTO THE WORLD.

A. On the night Jesus was born. Shepherds & Angels honored him. READ LUKE 2:8-18, 20

B. A few days or weeks later wise men from the east came to worship Him.

Matt 2:1-2, 11, Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days

of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East & have come to worship Him" ... And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, & fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## II. AS JESUS PREACHES AND TEACHES, LET US SIT AT HIS FEET AS DID MARY OF BETHANY.

LK 10:39, Mary...sat at Jesus' feet & heard His word.

His sermon on the mount. His instructions about sexual purity, how to deal with problems between & among brethren, the importance of putting God first...

## III. AS HE GIVES HIMSELF IN OUR PLACE, LET US KNEEL AT THE CROSS.

One of the greatest witnesses to the truth of the gospel is the transformation of the meaning of the cross. We sing " I love that old cross..." Can you imagine someone singing "I love that gallows or that guillotine or that electric chair"? The cross was an implement of death. It was a thing to be despised. But because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, today it is a symbol of His love and His sacrifice. And tho

many of us would not wear a cross because of the way that symbol has been abused by some of our religious neighbors we all are willing to sing, "I love that old cross..." and "kneel at the cross, Christ will meet you there."

IV. AS HE TAKES UP HIS LIFE AGAIN, JOHN 10:18, LET US TAKE A MOMENT TO STAND AT THE EMPTY TOMB.

A. Moses, the greatest spokesman of the O.T. remains buried & no man has ever known the location of his tomb, Deut. 34:6.

B. King David, greatest of Israel's O.T. kings is still buried somewhere in Jerusalem, Acts 2:29.

C. I have stood at the tomb of B. Franklin in Philadelphia, at graves of several of the pilgrims in Plymouth, Mass., at the San Jacinto battleground where brave men fell securing Texas' freedom from Mexico, at the battleground in Gettysburg, PA where brother fought against brother in the War Between the States. All those brave men are still dead & their tombs are still with us. Their bodies will continue to sleep in the dust till Christ returns to wake them from their sleep.

B. But somewhere in the vicinity of Jerusalem, in the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D., there was an empty tomb—the grave of Jesus Christ. That empty tomb in silence shouts the message of

the angel: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?".

#### V. LOOK UP TOWARD THE HEAVENLY THRONE WHERE JESUS, OUR FORERUNNER PREPARES FOR OUR ARRIVAL .

Heb 12:2, Looking unto Jesus, the author & finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, & has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

It was basically this scene that transformed the face of Stephen, even as he was dying in agony while the enemies of God hurled rocks at him till they crushed his life away, Acts 7. Luke says Stephen's face was like that of an angel. I'm not sure what that means--but I know it reflected his faith, his love, his courage, & his peace with himself and with God.

CONCLUSION: If, like the Greeks who came to Philip, we would see Jesus, then let us begin with His entrance into our world in Bethlehem, walk with Him by the Sea of Galilee as He teaches His disciples, kneel at the cross, behold the empty tomb, & last, but certainly not least, approach His throne of grace with the knowledge that He always lives to intercede for us in the immediate presence of Almighty God. Sirs, Ladies, let us see Jesus, & let others see Jesus in us.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, April 2, 1995

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 27, 2000

Wnarton, NJ, May 12, 2000 (meeting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 12, 2006