

Experiencing Jesus

More Than Mere Knowledge

- **Why is it that He often feels so far away?**
- **So historical?**
- **So church related?**
- **So other?**

More Than Mere Knowledge

- The **distance** between *knowing Him* and *knowing about Him* is **vast**.
- And the space between these two experiences separates the *spectators* from *intimate participants*.

More Than Mere Knowledge

- “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the *fellowship* of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:9; NKJV)
- Fellowship – *koinonia* – ***joint participation!***
 - **Experience**
 - **Joint participation**
 - **Friendship**
 - **Companionship**
 - **Close contact**
 - **The pleasure of His presence!**

The Heart of GOD

- **To move beyond simply knowing about Him into the joy of experiencing Him.**

Experiencing Jesus

- It's about a deep and abiding sense of His nearness on the journey.

Experiencing Jesus

- It's about an unshakable confidence that only His abiding presence can give.

Experiencing Jesus

- **It's about courage in the face of previously intimidating encounters.**

Experiencing Jesus

- **It's about a closeness that enables your spirit to commune with Him, anywhere, anytime, regardless.**

Experiencing Jesus

- **It's about meeting Him in places that you may never have dreamed of...**
 - 1. In the most heated of seductions.**
 - 2. In the midst of suffering.**
 - 3. In acts of unflinching surrender.**

Experiencing Jesus

- **Jesus consistently rewards anyone who diligently seeks Him (Hebrews 11:6).**
- **Not those who seek...**
 - 1. Religion**
 - 2. Doctrine**
 - 3. Systems**
 - 4. Creeds**

The Singular Quest

- ***"...that I may know Him..."***
(PHIL 3:7-11)
- Paul, led by the Spirit, uses the Greek word that means ***to know by experience.***
- The entire focus of Paul's life was to experience more of Jesus.

Beginning the Quest

1. It is about getting far enough beyond self that we can see Him more clearly and desire Him more completely (Matthew 5:8).
2. Sin – you're going to feel the distance – He only meets us there to pull us out of the ditch of our own ways, but He won't stay there with us (Isaiah 59:1-2).
3. Think carefully about those things in your life that stand between you and Jesus.
4. Fall prostrate before His throne of grace, allow Jesus to mediate, the Spirit to intercede and pray Psalm 139:23-24.

Beginning the Quest

- Don't shy away from this.
- ***He already knows*** about your secret thoughts and struggles (Hebrews 4:13).
- He has been ***grieving*** the distance between your heart and His (Ephesians 4:30).
- ***His cleansing mercy is readily available*** (Hebrews 4:16).

Beginning the Quest

- **I can never fully experience Jesus until I stop being absorbed with myself.**

Beginning the Quest

- At some point in life, we have to come to grips with whether **"He" or "me"** is the main feature of our existence.
- Since earliest childhood we have been very much aware of and concerned about ourselves.
- We mastered words like ***my and mine*** long before we knew the word for friend or share.

An Inner Journey Through Yourself

■ Questions we all ask:

- Who am **I**?
- What do people think of **me**?
- Have **I** been sufficiently recognized for **my** accomplishments?
- How am **I** being treated?
- Does anyone care about **me**?

An Inner Journey Through Yourself

- When we *live to know Him* we find that *knowing Him is the key to understanding and making peace with ourselves.*

An Inner Journey Through Yourself

- **Trying to discover self- worth?**
 - **You have it in Him...**
 - **He died for you!**

An Inner Journey Through Yourself

- **Plagued by failure and guilt?**
 - **He does what no one else will or can do for you...**
 - **He forgives and forgets, kills the fatted calf as Heaven rejoices, and clothes you with the best robes of His righteousness.**

An Inner Journey Through Yourself

- **Searching for significance?**
 - **Search no more...**
 - **You are His child!**
 - **There is no greater significance than that.**

An Inner Journey Through Yourself

- **Wondering if there is any reason or purpose for you to take up space on this care-worn planet?**
 - **The mystery is unraveled in Him as He scripts your life to be lived for His glory and to reflect the radiance of His character.**

Jesus and Me

- **More compelling**
- **More engaging**
- **More awesome**
- **More surprising**
- **More fulfilling**
- **More attractive**
- **More gripping**
- **More absorbing**
- **Beyond comprehension**

Jesus and Me

- **It is impossible to be fully absorbed with yourself and in hot pursuit of Him at the same time.**

Experience Me!

- **“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”**

(Matthew 16:25; NKJV see also Matthew 10:39; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33; John 12:25)