

We Want to See Jesus

Sermon March 18, 2018

This story happened on Palm Sunday after Jesus cleaned the temple in Jerusalem. There were thousands and thousands of Jews in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. There were also many business people from other countries who were buying and selling at the market.

There were Greeks, gentiles, who heard about Jesus but never met him before. They heard that Jesus healed diseases. At that time, people traveled and told other people about Jesus' power, so people wanted to see how Jesus did it and wanted their diseases healed. This is how new people came to Jesus to meet him.

We read that, on Palm Sunday, some Greeks came to Philip, one of Jesus' disciples, asking Philip to introduce them to Jesus, saying: "We would like to see Jesus" - which meant that they wanted to know him in person. They heard about Jesus, maybe they saw him from afar, surrounded by a crowd and now they were eager to see him eye to eye and talk to him in person.

I can picture Philip's joy when he heard that Greeks, gentiles, want to see Jesus. For a Christ-follower, it is always a great joy to hear that somebody wants to meet in person with Jesus and wants to come into a personal relationship with the Saviour.

It is a joy for me as well to meet people who want to come to Jesus.

I am sure that you too have a great desire to see Jesus day by day with your spiritual eyes as your Saviour and to know him as your personal Saviour.

It is not the same to know somebody being described by others as to know the person by meeting him and talking to him eye to eye. It is a big difference to know somebody by other people's experiences or by personal experience.

Once a person confessed that she had a lot of information and knowledge about Jesus, but she had no personal experience with Jesus as her Saviour. She could tell why Jesus died on the cross, but that did not mean anything to her. She knew that Jesus died to give us forgiveness for all our sins, but she did not know if her sins were forgiven. She said she had a feeling that her sins were not forgiven because

she did not ask for forgiveness and she did not know how to start a personal relationship with Jesus. She knew that those who believe in Jesus have eternal life, but she knew that she did not accept this eternal life yet. She knew how many gifts God gave us in Jesus, but she said that was not her because she did not extend her hands to receive it. "It is wonderful, but it is not MINE. It is outside of me, but not INSIDE me" she said. She was envious of those who were able to confess that they opened their hearts for Jesus: Jesus lives in their hearts, he guides them, their decisions and their actions.

It is so great when somebody can reach the point when he or she WANTS to see Jesus.

I hope you, too, enjoy hearing how others are talking about Jesus, but from this, you will still not get real joy because what they describe is based on their experience and not yours.

Everybody has to stand in front of Jesus, to see him, and to get a personal connection with him.

I would like to remind you of the message we received last Sunday. We heard that God said to His people in the desert that all those who looked up to the serpent would be saved from the serpents' poison. Everybody had a personal responsibility to look up to that serpent. The mothers could not look up to save their children, but the children themselves were obligated to look upon it. A friend could pray for his friend, but his friend personally was responsible for looking up to the serpent to be saved. If your friend belongs to Jesus, that is great, but his faith cannot help you at all. Your responsibility is to come to Jesus to be saved.

If so far you did not have a chance to meet Jesus in person, this day is an opportunity to see Him and to meet Him in person.

These Greeks asked Philip to lead them and introduce them to Jesus.

Once, I heard about a young man, who was pretty down, having many difficulties. He had a colleague who, most of the time, was relaxed and happy, and seemed to be thankful in every situation. Often, people asked him about his secret.

He openly confessed that he not only believed in Jesus Christ, but also he obeyed Him and followed Jesus' instruction by reading the Bible and attending his church regularly. Once, his colleague asked him if he would take him on Sunday to that church. The message was about Jesus who yesterday and today and always is the same. He had a great desire not only to know more about Jesus but also to meet Jesus on a personal spiritual level. He started to hope that Jesus could help him.

As he arrived home, he went into his office, and right away went on his knees to pray. "Jesus, if you are alive, I want to meet you and please deliver me from my sin." That was the first time he ever prayed. He said that when his knees were touching the ground, his spirit was connected with heaven. He said, "When I prayed, I had a great feeling, and I knew that Jesus was standing next to me. I asked him to take my chain off from me if He can. I confessed all my sins to Him, and I did not hide anything. As I prayed, the chains were falling off from me, Jesus surrounded me with love and forgiveness; He took my weights off my heart. I received new strength, and I received new life from heaven. I came to a new resolution, and I became a totally new person." Since then, this young man became a totally new person.

Today, you do not need anybody to lead you to Jesus, but you can come now as you are. He is not far away from you. He is here. Please introduce yourself to him. You can say, "Lord Jesus, I heard about you so many times, I heard you calling me, but I avoided you, and now I am here."

At home, try to find a moment when you will introduce yourself to Jesus in prayer. Tell him who you are, tell him all your problems, all your secrets, all your sins. This is the best way to experience that He is a living God.

The biggest and best gift we receive is the FORGIVENESS. Our sins are forgiven. We are encouraged by Jesus not to sin anymore. This is the first thing we can receive from Him.

The second one is that we can be His follower and we can serve Him. If we receive Jesus Christ, Jesus can help us not only to make changes but also to be a new person. The next step will be that we will receive the power of the Holy Spirit to share with others what Jesus did to us and in our lives, and we will be able to talk

about Him with power and joy. In this way, we will be able to bring others to Jesus.

These people had a desire to **SEE** Jesus. They did not want to hear **about** Him again, but now they wanted to SEE him. Today, people are asking from us the same thing: they want to SEE Jesus in our lives. They do not want to hear about our teaching, but they want to SEE Jesus from our actions.

Somebody asked me how she could lay the Bible into her husband's hands to read it. I said to her, "You do not have to do that. You do not have to try to put the Bible in your husband's hand but make an effort to live with him as Jesus is teaching you to live, day by day. He does not want to read in the Bible what Jesus says about values, but he wants to see in a Christian wife's life what love, patience, and humbleness are. Then he will understand Jesus better."

May your life be an open Bible in your house which talks about Jesus and shows who Jesus is.

It would be so nice if our children would know Jesus through us. Often, parents are asking how they could raise their children to be Christians and to follow Christian values. How could they pass them their faith? The best way is to show them in your own life who Jesus is. Our children should see in us and through us who Jesus is because they **HAVE TO SEE JESUS** in us and through us.

The world would like to see a true Christian who can show them Jesus. Always remember: the world wants to see Jesus in you and through your actions.

If somebody has a desire to get a nice tan, you have to go to a tanning salon or lie on the beach to be impacted by the sun. Those who want to live a Christian life and want to be influenced by God have to be connected to Jesus. This is how we can be changed.

Those gentiles wanted to see Jesus. It is so good that we can see Jesus today.