

Jesus Inviting You to Know Him

Have you ever wondered if there is more to life than what you see? Have you ever felt a longing for something deeper, something more meaningful, something more fulfilling? If so, you are not alone. Many people go through life searching for answers, for purpose, for happiness. But what if I told you that there is someone who knows you, who loves you, and who wants to give you all that you are looking for? His name is Jesus, and He is inviting you to know Him.

Jesus is not just a historical figure or a religious leader. He is the Son of God, who came to this earth to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). What does that mean? It means that He came to find those who are lost in sin, in despair, and in hopelessness, and to offer them the way to forgiveness and eternal life.

Let me tell you a story that illustrates this. There was once a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. One day, one of them wandered away and got lost. The shepherd did not ignore the lost sheep or give up on it. Instead, he left behind the ninety-nine sheep and went after the one that was missing. He searched high and low, until he found it. He then carried it on his shoulders and brought it back to the fold, rejoicing (Luke 15:4-7). This is how Jesus feels about you. He cares for you, He values you, and He wants to bring you back to His fold. He is willing to leave everything behind to find you and to rescue you.

Let me tell you another story. There was once a man named Zacchaeus, who was a tax collector. He was hated by his people, because he cheated them and worked for the oppressive Roman government. He was rich, but he was unhappy. He heard that Jesus was passing through his town, and he wanted to see Him. But he was too short to see over the crowd, so he climbed a tree. As Jesus walked by, He looked up and saw Zacchaeus. He called him by name, and told him to come down, because He wanted to stay at his house. Zacchaeus was shocked and amazed. He quickly came down and welcomed Jesus. In that encounter, Zacchaeus experienced Jesus' love and acceptance. He also realized his sin and decided to change his ways. He gave half of his wealth to the poor and paid back four times as much to those he had cheated. Jesus declared that salvation had come to his house that day (Luke 19:1-10). This is how Jesus treats you. He knows you, He calls you, and He wants to stay with you. He does not judge you or reject you, but He offers you His friendship and His forgiveness. He also invites you to repent and to follow Him.

Let me tell you one more story. There was once a father who had two sons. The younger son asked for his share of the inheritance and left his father's house. He wasted his money on wild living and soon became broke. He ended up working as a pig feeder, a shameful job for

a Jewish boy. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs' food, but no one gave him anything. He finally came to his senses and decided to go back to his father. He rehearsed a speech, saying that he was no longer worthy to be his son, and that he would work as a hired servant. But as he approached his father's house, his father saw him from afar and ran to him. He hugged him and kissed him, and did not let him finish his speech. He ordered his servants to bring the best robe, a ring, and sandals for his son. He also prepared a feast and celebrated his son's return. He said, "This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (Luke 15:11-32). This is how Jesus welcomes you. He is your heavenly Father, who loves you unconditionally and waits for you patiently. He does not hold your past against you, but He restores you and rejoices over you. He gives you the best that He has and invites you to join His family.

These stories show us the heart of Jesus—a heart that is full of compassion and love for you. He is a loving Savior and a faithful Friend. He is the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). He is inviting you to know Him, to trust Him, and to follow Him. He is offering you the gift of eternal life and abundant life.

How will you respond to His invitation? Will you ignore Him, or will you accept Him? Will you reject Him, or will you receive Him? Will you doubt Him, or will you believe Him? The choice is yours, but I urge you to choose wisely. Choose Jesus, and you will never regret it. Choose Jesus, and you will find what you are looking for. Choose Jesus, and you will discover the true meaning of life.