

**Introduction:**

- "I believe when people meet us, the church, it should be like meeting Him, the head." Andy Elms. *"As He is so are we in this world."* 1 Jn 4:17
- *"Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."* (Matthew 9:35-36, NLT)
  - Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages. (Salt-flavoring the cities with Kingdom!)
  - Anointed teaching! I.e. don't let the picture be of a person standing in front of a group of people. Think coffee: teaching others over coffee what the Lord is showing you. What He shows you, you have authority in. And it will come out like that too!
- What made Jesus so attractive?
  - Here is what the prophet Isaiah had to say of Him. *"There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance,"* NLT (Is 53:2). Jesus will not make the cover of GQ magazine. Google's most handsome men and you will not find Jesus there.
  - Yet the crowds flocked to Him, why?
- I want to make three observations of Jesus in the Fields: Jesus had a welcoming life. Walked with Presence and Power (Acts 10:38.) And He was a giver of life.
  - We must be a church that seeks the same. We want to grow in this both individually and corporately. It is part of the reshaping that I spoke of last week. Lets look at these three things.

**I. Jesus Lived A Welcoming Life**

- A. Webster's 1828 - Welcome - "Received with gladness; as a welcome guest. Grateful; pleasing; as a welcome present; welcome news. Free to have or enjoy gratuitously. You are welcome to the use of my library.
1. I.e. Greeters are the first of encounter that people have with FCC.
  2. This is where people will form their first opinions of what FCC is like.
- B. Jesus welcomes people. From our definition we understand that: Jesus was a welcomer of weary people. Jesus received people with gladness. He celebrated others lives. People were made aware of the availability of the kingdom to them.
1. *"Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.""* (Matthew 11:28-30, NLT). It is a body, soul and spirit weariness.
    - a) Weary physically - as people we are tired of the pace.
    - b) Weary mentally - the stress of the pressure on our lives wears us down mentally.

- c) Weary spiritually - business takes its toll on our spiritual lives; neglect of the Bread of life and the Living Water.
- 2. Weariness comes from the multilayer complexities of our lives. We are people with physical weaknesses, emotional heartbreaks, consequences of sin, complicatedly full schedules, and 'media beatdowns.' Our weariness is not simple but complex; but Jesus offers a simple solution. Come to Me! He simply offers himself.
- C. Jesus welcomed sinners into His life. He was called a friend of sinners by Pharisees.
  - 1. To the Pharisees it was a criticism. To Jesus it was a compliment. The Pharisees existed to men to God but because of the condition of their hearts they were failing.
  - 2. *"The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by the lives of those who follow it."* (Luke 7:34-35, NLT)
    - a) *"I say to you, the wisdom of God<sup>e</sup> will be proven true by the expressions of godliness in everyone who follows me."* (Luke 7:35 TPT)
    - b) Look whose followers are more godly: Pharisee or Jesus? Jesus-proof that welcoming sinners into the presence is more powerful.
    - c) Living a welcoming life is an expression of love and acceptance!
    - d) We want to do this individually and corporately. Ecclesia the assembly as in corporate gathering and individually as salt and light!

## II. Jesus Lived A Power Life

- A. *"And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."* (Acts 10:38, NLT). Jesus was anointed by God with Holy Spirit and Power, two things. He had the presence (Holy spirit) and He had the power.
  - 1. Jesus had the Holy Spirit. He needed the Holy Spirit. He needed the Holy Spirit to carry out His mission. We are no different! We also need the Holy Spirit to live this life and to carry out the mission that God has given us. That mission...win the lost at any cost-make disciples.
    - a) The Holy Spirit in Jesus life was the marked presence of God upon Him. The living affirmation: *"You are my Son in whom I am well pleased."*
    - b) Holy Spirit was His heaven connection...an always abiding presence of God!
    - c) Holy Spirit was His leader. Jesus only did what the Father was doing. And He only spoke what the Father was speaking.
  - 2. Jesus had power.
    - a)  $\delta\upsilon\upsilon\iota\mu\alpha\iota$  - 'to be able', to make strong, to have power." TDNT.

- b) "The Spirit, and this gift confers on Christ his authority (*exousía*)—an authority which he has the power (*dýnamis*) to exercise in expelling demons or healing the sick (cf. Lk. 5:17; 6:19; 8:46) TDNT, p 189.
- B. We need the presence and power of God on us.
1. We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit as well!
  2. With it we walk in the authority of Spirit and have the power to advance the Kingdom!
  3. Paul trust so much in the Holy Spirit. And it is the time in presence of God that Peter's shadow healed and Paul touch upon apron and handkerchiefs brought unusual miracles to people.
  4. dynamos - to be able, ability, power to heal.
- C. Take every opportunity to pray for others. Sit in His presence. Sit in the light of His presence and 'get God on you!'
1. Our job is to get people to believe. Ie. The angel and William Branham's calling. *"If you get the people to believe you, and be sincere when you pray, nothing shall stand before your prayers, not even cancer."* Voice of God Recordings, William Branham.
  2. 'Break the ice', share your heart/testimony, share the Word. You do not have to push.

### III. Jesus The Life Giver

- A. Abundant / overflowing life.
1. The church must be a place full of life. Col. 3:13; Eph 2:4-5; Rom 6:4; Jn 10:10
- B. *"A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect—life in its fullness until you overflow!"* (John 10:10, TPT). *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10, ESV)
1. Abundantly - over abundance, excess,
  2. Jesus bring super abundance of life to us.
    - a) Darkness to light
    - b) Death to life! That is superabundance.
  3. The prodigal said, "My father's servants have more than enough."
- C. Jesus gave life to people!
1. Centurion's servant. Healed.
  2. Syro -Phonician woman's daughter. Mark 7:26 Healed
  3. The leper who was out cast. Lk 5:12. Healed
  4. The two demoniacs who ran at Jesus. Mt 8:28. Healed
- D. Paul spoke of being made alive together! The ecclesia/assembly. *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been*

*saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus;” (Ephesians 2:4-6, ESV)*

- E. Life is a blatant trademark/hallmark of God. If God is in it, it is life giving!
- F. The word encourage is a life giving word.
  1. parakaleo - to comfort. Holy Spirit is called the paraclete.
  2. We stake ourselves up to Him so that we draw strength/life from Him.
  3. Barnabas, also an apostle, was known as the Son of Encouragement. Acts 4:36

**Conclusion:**

- Jesus desires us to be welcoming. He wants us to walk in power. He wants us to be life giving. God is good and so ought we be too.
- We must let God reshape us into this kind of a church. With that...we can enter the fields white unto harvest.