

Scripture Readings :

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

John 15:9

Sermon Title: Be with Jesus

Be with Jesus

Become like Jesus

Change the world

Being with Jesus is the activity at the center of life with God

Being with Jesus is the foundational fuel to both lifelong transformation & life after death

Being with Jesus is an association that defines both identity & belonging

Being with Jesus is the reclaimed treasure that God desires for Himself, & the ultimate purpose for His people

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 3:1-10

And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called *the Beautiful Gate* to ask alms of those entering the temple.

We might not understand God's timing, but we can trust it.

We don't have to understand God's timing to be able to trust it.

Christian, our understanding is not a prerequisite for our obedience, God's character as true and good is.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And *they recognized that they had been with Jesus*
Acts 4:13

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶ with *Annas the high priest* and *Caiaphas* and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"
Acts 4:5-7

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they led him to *Annas*, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people....²⁴ Annas then sent him bound to *Caiaphas* the high priest.
John 18:12-14, 24

Being with Jesus is an association that defines both identity & belonging

and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this *we are witnesses*.
Acts 3:15

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ *for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.*"
Acts 4:18-20

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because *you have been with me* from the beginning.
John 15:26-27

That which was from the beginning, which *we have heard*, which *we have seen* with our eyes, which *we looked upon* and *have touched* with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and *we have seen* it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which *we have seen and heard* we proclaim also to you,

1 John 1:1-3

Being with Jesus is *the foundational fuel* to both lifelong transformation & life after death

And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though *by our own power or piety* we have made him walk?
Acts 3:12

The primary work of the gospel is *restoration of relationship* not reclaiming of usefulness

The good news of Jesus Christ is ‘*loved & wanted by God*’

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of *refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord*, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,
Acts 4:19-20

Being with Jesus is *the reclaimed treasure* that God desires for Himself, & the ultimate purpose for His people

that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ *I in them and you in me*, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, *may be with me* where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:21-24

so that you too may have fellowship with us; and *indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ*. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1 John 4:3b-4

And when they had further *threatened* them, they let them go
Acts 4:21a

And now, *Lord, look upon their threats* and *grant to your servants* to continue to speak your word with all *boldness*,³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 4:29-30

Considerations for *being with Jesus*:

Plan for *prayer*

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at *the hour of prayer*, the ninth hour
Acts 3:1

And when they heard it, *they lifted their voices together to God*
Acts 4:24

And when *they had prayed*, the place in which *they were gathered together* was shaken,
and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with
boldness.
Acts 4:31

Plan for proclaiming

Proclamation is telling the story of God's grace at work

Plan for consistent & meaningful time with people

Show me your friends and I'll show you your future...

-Wisdom from my mom & dem', Twentylemhunnidmillion passages in the bible, 1 Corinthians
15:33