

# **Behold His Glory: Jesus, Full of Grace & Truth**

## **John 1**

**Sean Jamieson: 11/29/15**

As we step into this Christmas season, I'm reminded that we live in a place that celebrates the holidays but often misses the real reason for the season. It's my prayer that during this time especially, our lives would not be void of the presence of God but rather, we would "Behold His Glory" and see the true character of Christ revealed in our everyday lives.

### **John 1:1-14 (NIV)**

#### **The Word Became Flesh**

<sup>1</sup> “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome<sup>[a]</sup> it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. **We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

JOHN 1:1-14

Our world	JESUS CHRIST
Dark	LIGHT
Dying	LIFE
Tired & Afraid	GRACE
Lied to	TRUTH
Lost	HOPE

\*Satan, our enemy, is not only jealous of our worship of God, he also does not possess the power to create anything and thus, it is his primary intention to steal, kill & destroy.

### **“Behold His Glory” – GHFC 2015 Christmas Theme**

Behold- (*theaomai*) to look upon, view attentively, contemplate

Glory (Oxford Dictionary)-

1. high renown or honor won by notable achievements
2. magnificence or great beauty
3. praise, worship, and thanksgiving offered to a deity

Greek word for “glory” in John 1, (*Doxa*)-

1. opinion, judgment, view
2. opinion, estimate, whether good or bad concerning someone
3. splendor, brightness

What do you think about when you hear the words “Behold” and “Glory?” I tend to think about someone or something being in the spotlight, being famous for some reason, deserving some kind of accolades or award. Certainly all this and so much more could be said of Jesus, who came not only as a baby in a manger but also as our Savior and Lord. He is the famous one! He is my King! He is my\_\_\_\_, and you could fill in the blank with something glorious about God today.

It’s true that God’s glory brings light to the darkness. Think back to John 1:4-5. (Share a bit about Justin Yakovich’s memorial service.)

However, it’s something to consider WHY the Scripture says “we beheld His glory.” One, it’s a reference back to **Isaiah 40:5** “And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” But, in addition to that, was it simply because of Jesus’ deity and the fact that because He WAS and also IS God, there was this aura of brightness that followed Him everywhere He went? Maybe, but probably not likely. **Isaiah 53:2b** says, “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.” Yet it’s funny how all throughout church history Jesus is certainly depicted as quite the handsome fellow. It brings a whole new meaning to “being like Jesus.” **1 Corinthians 2:14** says, “The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.”

And I think for this reason, and many others, it’s easy for us to miss that the true reason countless of people have, and still do to this day, see Jesus and behold His glory is not because of the brightness of His awesome power as much as it is the perfection of His character. This is what makes Jesus truly glorious. He is a man of His word. Shoot, HE IS THE WORD!

The holiness and perfection of God is expressed through His Son Jesus. It was over 2,000 years ago when Immanuel, God with us, was born as a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and was laid in the manger and it still is to this day when we encounter God's Holy Spirit.

As much of a Seahawks fan as I am, the glory of that Super Bowl victory a couple years ago will inevitably fade away. As much as I loved catching that big marlin this last fall in Mexico, the glory of that moment has already started and will continue to fade away and become a passing memory. And don't even get me started on my golf game, my athleticism, or fantasy football; those things ALL could use some real work, some more than others.

My point is this: what are you glorying in today? What do you revel in? What makes you the most happy? If the answer to those questions lies in anything that is carnal, or of this world, we must remember that those things are temporal and fleeting. They are here one day and gone the next. Does God desire for us to enjoy this beautiful earth He created with the wonderful family and friends He placed in our lives? Of course He does! But are you finding yourself looking at GLORY as a spotlight on you or as a reflection of Christ in you? Let's be encouraged to look at the word GLORY this Christmas season in a different light; in the light of reflecting the true character of Christ, full of GRACE & TRUTH.

Let's not leave Jesus in the manger this year. Let's not leave Him as a baby, seemingly devoid of power and ability. Rather, let's remember Him for His life, His perfect life and the character He operated out of towards everyone, regardless of circumstance. Let's then remember Him for His death, resurrection and ascension. Where He once and for all defeated sin, death and the grave! **Hebrews 4:14-16 says,** <sup>14</sup> **"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,** <sup>15</sup> **Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."** Don't let the enemy fool

you; JESUS KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH! He can relate with your struggles. How freeing is it to know that?! Sure, he didn't have a cell phone in his hands and wasn't on Facebook or Instagram but you know what I mean. He faced the same root issues and temptations that we face, and yet, HE DID NOT SIN!

When you go about this extremely busy season, don't miss out on the little moments that God has set in motion for you to be a blessing to others AND don't miss the moments he has prepared and set aside specifically for just you and Him. For you to rest in the middle of the chaos and find yourselves in the arms of your heavenly Father as you are reminded that He is sustaining you, He is upholding you, He's got you WHEN you fall, not IF you fall. As you prepare for glorious moments spent around a tree with family; glorious moments spent with friends in front of the fire; glorious moments spent out and about with family...don't forget where the GLORY comes from and WHO it's really all about. Because when you remember Christ, and put Him first this holiday season, you will not only Behold His Glory, but in doing so, you will take on more of His character by His Holy Spirit and you will operate more like Jesus, full of Grace & Truth.