

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

Study Jesus- Ps Lynn Swart

In our lives we need to be **fascinated with Jesus** rather than fearful of the world. How do we do this?

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:2

Where and what are our eyes 'fixed' on? Do we look to the natural, which seems impossible and daunting, or the supernatural ability of an all-powerful, loving God? In the Message Bible it tells us to **'Study Jesus'**. The world wants us to 'balance' all the chaos around us, but the bible calls us to be focused on Jesus.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not wringing their hands in despair at what is happening around us. They know it is finished and the victory was already won. Our posture in life should be the same. **We put aside the fickleness of our feelings and trust in the faithfulness of God.** Fear is constantly knocking at the door, wanting to paralyze us. Jesus also knocks at our door, and when we open the door to him, the way, the truth and the life, we slam the door to fear.

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Matt 28:17

The disciples 'doubted' (distazo = 'to distance yourself') when they saw the risen Jesus. When we allow our past disappointments to begin to dictate what our destiny looks like, something has to shift. We can't focus on Jesus as our risen savior if we constantly look back at our past. Fear focuses on the past but faith trusts God with the future.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matt 28:18

When we focus on Jesus over our circumstances, we remember that he has all authority. Don't spend more time studying the world than you do **studying Jesus**, because faith comes from seeing Him as our risen victorious king. It is after putting aside our doubt, and focusing on Jesus as our king with all authority, that we receive this commission:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matt 28:19-20

The Great Commission is a call on all our lives to see God's kingdom established on earth. It starts with us returning to our first love, and focusing on Jesus. Let's **study Jesus** because it leads to a life led by faith and not held back by fear. He is our victorious king.

Reflection:

1. Ask Holy Spirit to reveal to you where you have allowed fear to hold you back and keep you focused on your past or present circumstances instead of Jesus. Let Him refocus your attention in that area by asking what He says about that fear or situation. What is he saying about it?
2. How does hearing his voice help you put aside fear and respond in faith?