

## Dwell With Jesus

In my previous Rapture Ready article, *Gather Up Courage*, we considered our prepositional God, the One who is *with* us and *in* us and *for* us and how His proximity *to* us allows for us as believers to gather up courage in these final days. Whether we have one day, one week, or one year (plus) before the coming of the Lord Jesus for His church in the rapture, we must respond accordingly to the blessing of being part of that final generation by becoming God's prepositional us, a people dwelling *with* Jesus and being *about* Jesus.

I'm sure we can agree that we have already seen more than our 2020 selves ever believed we would, and we don't dare ask what more 2024 might bring for fear that the answer to that question may very well be a national refining like we've never known. Whatever is to come, we must ask ourselves if we have what it takes to stand and be effective for the kingdom every moment we're here, be it one more week or several more years.

I've taken inventory of me, myself, and I and have found that I don't have what it takes. But a tap, tap, tap from within reminds me that I have Who it takes, Jesus. This prepositional us, I *in* Him and He in me (1 John 4:13), changes everything. He will do in me what it takes to prepare me. He will be through me that which He asks of me. But His activity in me and through me is conditional upon my willingness to yield *to* Him and be used *by* Him. So, what does it take to shape my will to His? It takes dwelling *with* Jesus.

Practically speaking, what does it look like to dwell *with* Jesus? Simple answer: Be where He is. John 1:14 tells us that Jesus was the Word made flesh and dwelt among us. Now that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father and not physically here on earth, how might we dwell *with* Him? Certainly through prayer, but today's topic will focus on dwelling *with* Jesus by dwelling *in* His Word.

### **Jesus knew the Word**

Though Jesus is the Word, during His time on earth, He was made flesh (John 1:14). To dwell as a man, Jesus chose to grow and mature as we do, which would suggest that He studied Scripture as is required of us (Luke 2:52). Because He knew the Word, when in the wilderness, Jesus was able to combat each temptation with "It is written" statements. How well do we know Scripture? When confronted by the massive deception of the last days, is the truth so ingrained within us that we can spot the lies of the enemy right away?

Is it possible that we're studying the deceptions more than the truth? Some rapture watchers spend more time examining the preparation for the Antichrist, the plans of the WEF, the IMF, the UN, etc., more than dwelling *with* Jesus Christ. Video after video, article after article, news junkies await their next fix of what's happening now and what might happen next. Yes, we should stay informed, but not at the expense of growing up in the Word (Ephesians 4:15). If more bad news is seeping in than good seed being planted through the Word, then we are off balance. Be certain of this: An off-balance believer will surely topple and not withstand. What's needed in the days or possibly years ahead are steady and strong Christians, ones armored up and ready for battle.

"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand." (Ephesians 6:13)

The optimist in me wants to believe that those of you who are reading this are in the Word of God daily, not just skimming a verse or two, but truly submerging yourselves in its cover-to-cover truths. A statement I made in the previous article was that only Scripture-strengthened arms can bear a God-given cross. We must be people *of* His Word, ones who dwell *in*, are strengthened *by*, and armed *with* the Word of God. We don't stand a chance without it. If the Word of God isn't your living water each day, then when the heat of this world is turned up, you'll be found weak and withered. News flash: The heat is being turned up daily!

We all must take inventory. If or when bad things come, will we be givers or takers? What I mean by that is when the shell-shocked lost and undiscerning believers are running around with their hands on their heads in sheer panic, will you be among them? Will you look like the rest of the world, living in confusion, or will you be spiritually grounded and armored up, able to comfort, console, and counsel? Please don't skim past that last question. Read it again and pray about it. Do you have what it takes because you are yielded to Who it takes?

What concerns me about many rapture watchers is that they only listen to pastors and teachers who all but assure them the rapture must be today or tomorrow or next week. So they've convinced themselves that God will get us out of here before anything really bad happens. In that case, I'm guessing there's not much armoring up going on. Rather than reaching for the armor and gathering up courage, they are busy only watching for the escape hatch. Here's a tough question: Could there be a shred of truth in some of what mid and post-tribbers say about pre-tribbers, that we're guilty of escapism, so set on the rescue that we won't allow ourselves to consider what may be required of us in darkening days?

### **Jesus obeyed the Word**

While dwelling *with* Jesus, a natural overflow of being *with* Him is that our steps will naturally align with His and how He obeyed the Word and lived out its principles in His daily life. In John 6:38, Jesus said, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." It's one thing to read, but another to act upon what you know. James 1:22 warns us that those who don't do what the Word says delude themselves. Verse 25 says that an effectual doer will be blessed in what he does. If anything can be said of most of us, we sure do love our blessings. Well, here's one way we will be blessed, by our obedience to God's Word.

Search your heart. Are there areas where you feel a call to obedience by the Spirit through the Word? If so, don't ignore those whispers. You may feel called to join an unexpected area of ministry. Jesus, through the Word, may be nudging you to extend forgiveness or to allow Him to plow up a root of bitterness. Perhaps you hear an urging of needed repentance or redirection. Whatever the Spirit's call, don't ignore Him.

### **Jesus lived out the Word**

To be a disciple of Jesus, one who follows *after* Jesus and lives out the Word, we must gather up courage now more than ever to stand *for* Jesus and *for* truth. Since Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), dwelling *with* Him requires us to live out truth in the midst of growing deception. Even if it hasn't reached your home church yet, massive deceptions are infiltrating churches nationwide. These days, the body of believers lives more like the world than like Jesus, making those of us who choose to live truth the exception and not the rule. As our circle of friends

grows only smaller, do we have what it takes to keep standing for truth when people around us, even our families, fall victim to the enemy's deceptions?

A few examples of church deceptions include:

- New Apostolic Reformation/Kingdom Now/Dominionism theology
- New Age practices
- Woke ideology
- Prosperity gospel/Word of Faith
- Ecumenism (the coming together of different religions)

Speaking of ecumenism... I must warn of *The Chosen* and its Mormon and Roman Catholic influence. The very fact that the world, including Whoopi Goldberg and the cast of *The View*, love this show should give discerning believers reason to pause and ask why.

Whoopi: "I am a huge fan of the series, *The Chosen*, which shows the humanity of Jesus in a way we haven't seen before, and highlights him and the apostles in a different way..."

This would suggest that *The Chosen* is portraying another Jesus, one the world loves rather than the Jesus who said the world hated Him (John 15:18-19).

Admittedly, I almost didn't include this in my list of deceptions. I even told a coworker that I didn't want to open a can of worms since I don't have room to cover it thoroughly. But I know that I must practice what I "preach." I don't need to provide you with all the details since this isn't the focus of the article, but I do want to urge you to do some investigating on your own by reading the informative links I'm providing.

[Booklet: The Chosen Series—10 Critical Concerns](#)  
[List of resources on The Chosen at Lighthouse Trails](#)

We talk often about preparations being made for the one-world economy and one-world government, but do we recognize the coming together of what will become the one-world religion? As disciples standing for Jesus and for truth, we must be prepared to share with others how these deceptions are paving the way for the worship of the Antichrist.

*Discipleship Tested* is the header above this passage in my Bible:

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'" (Luke 14:27-30)

The longer Jesus tarries, the more our discipleship will be tested. There is a cost for those of us who desire to build the body of Christ and serve the Kingdom of God. In my earlier article, I mentioned how we believers want the joy without the cross (Hebrews 12:2). Sadly, for as long as we're here, the ridicule we now face will intensify. Persecution will intensify. Deception will intensify. Unless we are dwelling *with* Jesus, knowing the Word, obeying the Word, and living out the truth of the Word, there is no way we will have what it takes to withstand an uncertain future. Are you building a tower

with strengthened arms and gathered-up courage? Are you armored up and prepared to die to self so that you can carry whatever cross you are destined to bear?

I'll see you back soon with the next article that will remind us as we're dwelling *with* Jesus and preparing spiritually for whatever may come that we have an assignment: Be *about* people. Sign up to receive the continuation of this article on my [Updates](#) page.

Waiting on Jesus *with* you,  
Lisa