



Meeting Jesus Is an Exciting Experience!

What happens after the experience?

Does the experience wear off...and then reality set in?

John 1:35-42, “The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).”

Bible Point: Get to know Jesus.

How do Christians (followers of Christ) get to know Jesus?

What is it that we want to know Him better?

Key verse: “Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12)

“When you know Jesus, you know changes.”

What changed after you became acquainted with Jesus?

Many people in our culture believe that becoming a Christian means believing a set of truths, attending church, or caring about and serving others.

All these things are good.....but they aren’t the CORE of what it means to become a Christian.

To be a follower of Jesus Christ is to become a new person.

The experience of knowing Christ changes:

- How we see ourselves,
- How we see the world around us,
- What really matters most in our lives,
- How we make decisions,
- Us....at the very core of our being.

The changes continue to occur as we:

- ✓Learn to listen
- ✓Learn to Obey...the One we love.

TO TRULY KNOW CHRIST IS TO BE CHANGED FOREVER.

Bible Background This Lesson

- **Immediately after Jesus' baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1)**
- After enduring a 40-**day fast and over coming Satan's temptations**, Jesus returned to Galilee and began His ministry.
- It was shortly thereafter that Jesus called His disciples.
- Two disciples of John the Baptist (one unnamed in this passage) had **been following John the Baptist...but at this point began to follow Jesus. (John did not try to persuade them from following...He was ready for the disciples to transfer their allegiance to Jesus).**
- **Note: Jesus' first words that are recorded by John (John 1:38), "What do you want?" (to the disciples).**

Why ask this question?

- **Note: First question asked of the disciples to Jesus, "Where are you staying?"**

Why ask this question?

Jesus did not wait to invite them to where he abode. His encounter with them that day evidently convinced them that He was truly the Messiah (**Andrew's statement to Simon**).

Simon followed Andrew to see the man that convinced his brother that he is the Messiah.

It only takes one look by Jesus to impact our lives.

Jesus did not give Simon the name of Peter (Rock) by what **Simon had been doing...but He saw where Peter's faith and potential could lead him.**

Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry Peter displayed everything but a rock (strength and stability)...the only thing Peter had in common with a rock was his hard-headedness.

The name that Jesus gave Peter was not based on his life up to that point, but on who Jesus knew Peter would become as a result of following Jesus.

When Peter got to know Jesus, his life changed.

Peter eventually became a new person, and, empowered by his faith in Christ, he dedicated his life to spreading the word about Jesus to the world.

Faith is more than reading about it and believing it; it is doing it (action). Jesus knows our potential. However, we must decide to follow him as a disciple that He can trust .



Changes in Peter's life!



While following Jesus as one of His disciples, Peter was everything but a "Rock" (If a name is supposed to represent character qualities in a person, then a person called Rock should be very solid, level-headed, and not easily upset). Peter was the opposite while following Jesus as Jesus ministered on this earth.

- Peter tries to walk on water but quickly becomes afraid and starts to sink (Matthew 14:28-31).
- Peter rebukes Jesus for saying he's going to die in Jerusalem. Jesus rebukes him in return (Matthew 16:21-31).
- Peter fails to keep watch for Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-45).
- Peter swears he will never deny Christ, only to deny him three times soon after (Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75).

God can do anything...He can change us into a mighty worker for the Lord. He did Peter...Jesus saw the potential in Peter...and knew Peter's spirit and love for the world would be changed.

(Read Acts 2:37-41); (Acts 3:1-10); (Acts 4:8-13)

What a changed man!

When the Spirit of God changes lives, you can see it and feel it. There is no doubt that when God touches, man is not the same....ever again.

What are some of the changes that take place in a person's life when they encounter Jesus and believe with a heart of faith?

(Think of your experience and encounter with Jesus)...What changes?

HOPEFULLY, YOU RECOGNIZE THE CHANGE BEFORE OTHERS RECOGNIZE IT. To follow Jesus, you must change your direction in life...from living for self to a life of giving time and talents for the sake of others. Sometimes it means that we have to change our whole focus and reason to live.

"For me to live is Christ; to die is gain."

