

We Would Like to See Jesus
John 12:20-36

Pastor John Jewell tells of a man named Charles who was lying in a hospital bed near death. Anyone who knew Charles would tell you he was not a nice man. He drank too much. He treated his wife and children badly. So, the nursing staff was a little surprised when Charles asked for a chaplain.

Charles asked the chaplain to pray for him.

“What do you want to say to God?” the chaplain asked.

“Tell God I’m sorry for the way my life has turned out,” Charles said. “Tell him that I am sorry for the way I treated my wife and kids, and that I’ve always loved them.”

“Sure, I can do that,” the chaplain said. “Is there anything else?”

Charles hesitated. “Tell God that I know I have no right to ask this—but I would like to be able to live with him.”

And the chaplain bowed his head and prayed and told God everything that Charles had said. The next morning when he came to visit, the nursing staff told him that Charles had passed away in the night.

Charles came to the realization that he wanted to see Jesus, it’s never too late if that is the desire of a person’s heart.

Jesus came to show us that one day we can live with God. And we don’t have to deserve it. Before the creation of the world, God planned to give His life on the cross to guarantee it. No matter how much of a disaster our lives may seem to be, there is one who offers us more grace, more peace, more love than we could ever exhaust in a million lifetimes. “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.”

We want to see Jesus so that we may obtain new meaning, new vitality, new possibilities, and the blessed assurance that we are never alone.

My friends, Jesus is the Way. He is the Truth. He is the Life. No wonder we all long to see him, and we can see him. Through the eyes of faith, we can perceive him in our midst. He is here. He is available to us today. To all who would receive him, he is here. Let us take new hope, new courage, let us commit ourselves anew to his work, for we have beheld his glory: the glory as of the only begotten son of the Father.

As someone has so beautifully said, “Christianity is not a philosophy Jesus came to teach. It is a life Jesus came to impart.” Won’t you receive the life that he has to give?

I pray the answer is yes.

God bless,
Pastor Barbara

