

Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

The Spirit of the Lord Has Anointed Me

by Kevin Little

There is a moment when Jesus moves from natural to supernatural, when you realize He's not just a man but is the Son of God. At that moment, everything changes. Jesus offered that kind of moment to His friends and family in Nazareth, but they missed it.

I grew up in church all my life, so I connect with the people of Nazareth. I remember sitting in the church pews, hearing the stories of Jesus, and thinking He was kind of sweet but a little foolish for dying, since I had this on my own. My familiarity and my foolishness removed Him from His throne and inoculated me, making me immune for many years to His wisdom and His power that would one day transform my life.

As I listened this morning to Rebecca's word, her warning against familiarity, I recommitted myself to never falling prey to that strategy of the enemy ever again. So, if you, like me, want to avoid this comfort level that will strip Jesus of His power and His wisdom, here are two things we can do together:

#1: Remember, every encounter in the Scriptures is a conversation.

My wife loves to tell stories. She lights up every time, and she's quite good at it, making me smile and bringing joy to my life through them. What if when she started a story, I cut her off and said, "Yeah, yeah, I've heard this one." How would that impact my marriage?

If I approach the Bible like a book that I've read many times before, I miss the relational aspect. The point of daily time in God's Word is not increasing my knowledge or studying for a test. It provides a moment where I remember that the God of the Universe who spoke all things into existence, who humbled Himself, taking on flesh and dying for me, wants to have a conversation, wants to do life with me, and through me.

Jesus said in Revelation 3:20, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” I listen to my wife’s stories, not to know her stories better, but to connect more intimately to my bride, and Jesus longs to do the same through the Scriptures each day of your life.

#2: Apply the Scriptures in a way that requires your faith that God will do something.

Your walk with Christ becomes impotent when you stop taking steps that require God to change and transform you. When God’s Word becomes a book that simply confirms your biases, beliefs, and behaviors, that simply says, “Atta boy,” something has slipped. Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” A sword doesn’t touch something without leaving a mark. God asks the prophet in Jeremiah 23:29, “Is not My word like a fire? And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” Both a fire and a hammer transform things.

When you get into the Word, remembering that it is a conversation, ask God to search you, open up your beliefs, your thoughts, your reactions, your choices, and your behaviors to the searchlight of the Scriptures used by the Spirit. And when you see something that does not match up to the invitation Jesus gave through His Word, repent and ask the Holy Spirit to transform you in that area.

Question Where has your familiarity with Jesus robbed Him of His power in your life? Where have you let the fear of man start guiding your life rather than the fear of the Lord?

Family Chat Did you know that when you read the Bible—God’s word—you are having a conversation with Him, that He is talking to you? Students, what does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? What does it look for YOU to be a disciple of Christ?

Prayer Starter Jesus, thank You for who You are: my Savior, my deliverer, my healer, and my redeemer! I choose today to submit my way to Your way, my will to Your will.

Take Action Repent! Today’s questions (See “Question” above) reveal how the enemy tricks you out of experiencing the power of God, so wherever you answered positively, turn from that mindset, acknowledge that is not who you are, and receive the forgiveness and restoration that Jesus purchased for you on the cross. Then, take a moment and worship God, remembering that He is omnipotent, and you are not and that He is all-wise, and you are not.