



– K n o w i n g –

JESUS

A Worship Series for Saints & Sinners

Experiencing Jesus in Missional Community (5 of 6)

Sermon Series Focus

- *Knowing Jesus* means *experiencing* the person of Jesus as a disciple (learner) on the road to glorification
- This series looks at how “knowing Jesus and making him known” should be the heartbeat of every disciple
- The Father exalted the Son over all things, therefore we see that Christ is central and supreme, the first and last; there is no greater thing than knowing Jesus
- Since Jesus has been given this position of authority as the source of all Life, we will learn that everything hinges upon knowing Jesus and making him known

The Purpose of *Knowing Jesus*

- To invite saints and sinners to follow the Jesus of history and of faith (i.e. *experience* the Jesus of the NT)
- To make *this* Jesus central and supreme in our life
- To move us beyond a head knowledge of Jesus and our faith (e.g. belief, doctrine, thoughts, etc.), recognizing the difference between “about vs. abiding” in Jesus
- To discover practices that help us *abide* and deepen a relationship with Jesus that is both “personal” and corporate in nature; personal does *not* mean private
- To consider the radical call of Jesus to follow (know) him and share him—make disciples who make disciples

Knowing Jesus in Six Sermons

1. Nothing Greater Than Jesus
2. Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?
3. Making Jesus Your Lord & Friend
4. Abiding in the Person of Jesus
5. Experiencing Jesus in Missional Community
6. An Invitation to Follow Jesus

“Sanctification is the ongoing process whereby the Holy Spirit makes us holy by setting us apart, transforming us into the likeness of Christ and leading us into service to God.”

Stanley Grenz, *Created for Community* (pg. 198)

Jesus, Gospel of John 17:13-19 NIV

¹³ “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

The NT View of Sanctification

- Jesus prayed for our sanctification (ongoing holiness) and our conformity to his own person and his example
- “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (Jn 17:17)
- We are made “holy” and like Christ by coming to know God’s Word (Jesus) through God’s words (Scripture) with other disciples who corporately pursue *glorification*
- “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified” (1 Thes 4:3)
- “For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.” (Rom 6:19) “Be holy...” (1 Pet 1:15)

The Communal Nature of Holiness

- The NT is clear that discipleship & sanctification is more than an individual pursuit, it must also be communal
- In other words, you can't be *sanctified* on your own
- Peter said: "you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house" (1 Pet 2:5)
- The "spiritual house" of abiding disciples creates a womb for spiritual growth that will lead to missional birth
- Only through the local, corporate expression of "living stones" sharing LIFE together is Christ *fully* incarnated
- Disciples that aren't being "built" together through intimate & personal spaces can't make a spiritual house

Intimate Space
2-3 people



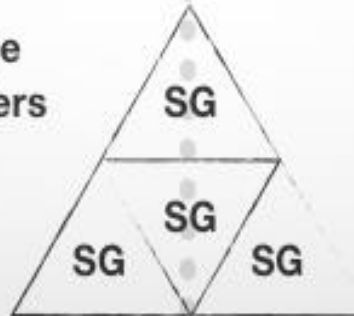
Personal Space
6-12 people

Small Group



Huddle
of leaders

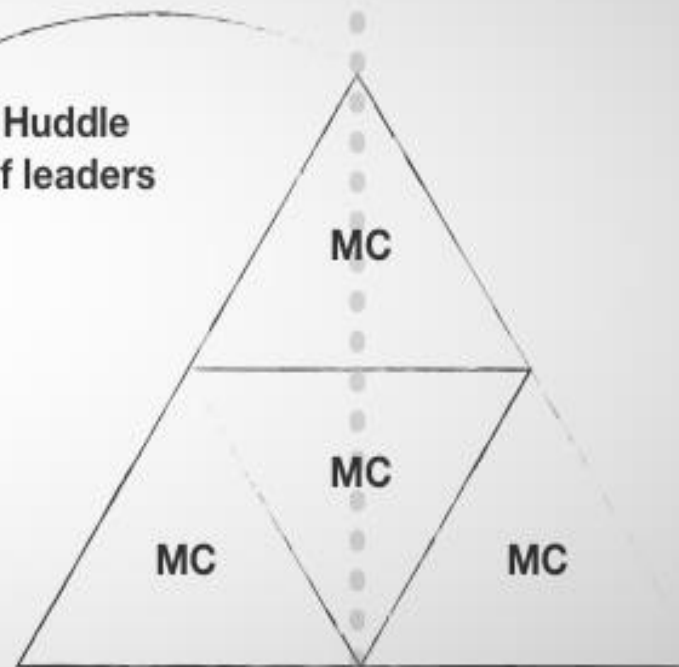
Missional Community



Social Space
20-70 people

Huddle
of leaders

Public Worship Service



Public Space
75+ people

Paul, Ephesians 2:18-22 NLT

¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. ¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

“It is the people themselves who are the “place” where God is now deciding to live. One might almost say that God himself has, in a sense, become a stranger and asylum-seeker within his own world, the more so since, as the early Christians knew, the Jerusalem Temple itself had been solemnly condemned by Jesus. The living God was now seeking to make his home in the hearts and lives, and particularly the communities, that had declared their loyalty to Jesus, and were determined to live by the gospel.”

N. T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters* (pg. 30)

Ephesians 4:1-6 NLT

¹ Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
⁶ one God and Father of all,
who is over all, in all, and living through all.

Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Ephesians 4:14-16 NLT

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Experiencing Jesus in Missional Community

How does individual and church growth happen? How were we meant to know and experience Jesus so that we can be about his mission in our surrounding community?

- Personally *abide* in Jesus via spiritual disciplines
- Abide in Jesus simultaneously with other disciples who are also abiding and seeking to be living stones
- When abiding disciples regularly gather and engage to express their devotion to Jesus, stuff happens!
(e.g. baptisms, brokenness & breakthroughs)
- In time, the Holy Spirit moves on disciples who become carriers and catalysts for a local missional movement

Moving From About to Abiding

- Knowing (abiding) Jesus through the spiritual disciplines will *actualize* a relationship and result in transformation
- If Jesus is “sanctifying” you as a disciple, there will be noticeable changes in your character and behavior, i.e. You’re not just knowing *about* Jesus, you’re abiding!
- If you are not gathering regularly with other disciples in the intimate and personal spaces of the church, you will be malformed, or worse yet, you will die on the Vine
- Are you abiding? Ask yourself: “Do I practice spiritual disciplines? Am I being disciplined within intimate & personal spaces? Am I changing and bearing more fruit?”

Ephesians 3:16-19 NLT

¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org