

Truth For The Final Generation

The Gospel According to Jesus the Messiah Part 1a

In this series of presentations we shall look at the teachings and sayings of Jesus the Messiah as drawn from the writings of the Gospel writers, beginning first with John the beloved. In the Bible we have the Gospel of Jesus the Messiah written through the eyes of several individuals who were well placed to do so, and they have given us excellent accounts. In this work, however, I have isolated the events and occurrences of two thousand years ago from the persons then present, so that we can hear the Messiah speaking to us one-on-one like the woman at the well of Sycar. The overarching theme in all His teachings is **“believe the words I have spoken unto you.”** As we become His primary audience we shall hear Him speaking directly to us in His own words, and we shall observe the number of times he urges us to “believe.” This is because the glorious theme of His Gospel is that He has accomplished all things for us, and in His own words, “all things are ready.” He has lived for us, was crucified for us, died for us, been buried for us, was resurrected for us, risen for us, ascended for us, enthroned for us, is seated at the right hand of God for us,

all the time being us (having taken on our humanity), and all of this for us. And all that we are left to do is believe that He has done all for us, and when we genuinely believe this, we receive it and are empowered to walk obediently for “we are His workmanship created in the Messiah Jesus unto good works.” Further, I have highlighted the word believe in its various forms to keep before us the theme of our Saviour, the Messiah’s victorious accomplishments for us. In His own words He encourages us to victory by telling us, “If ye believe, all things are possible,” and still on another occasion He states, “If you believe, nothing shall be impossible unto you.” May you enjoy the freshness of the Messiah’s voice (words) as you hear Him speaking directly to you as you insert your name where others are used.

Scripture Reading: John 1: 38-50 (NLT)

³⁸ Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them. They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ “Come and see,” he said. It was about four o’clock in the

afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. ⁴¹ Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ") ⁴² Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter"). ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me."⁴⁴ Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown. ⁴⁵ Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses[o] and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied. ⁴⁷ As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity." ⁴⁸ "How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because

I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." ⁵¹ Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth."

"What do you want? Come and see. Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas. Come, follow me. Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity. I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you. Do you **believe** this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this. I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth."

Remember in all these presentations we are substituting our names for the names of the ones mentioned back then.

So what do you want, or as the KJV puts it, what do you seek? Have you really thought of what it is that you are seeking, looking for? A person seeks because he/she does not have, and continues to do so especially if what is sought is peace of mind. But Christ has not left us to seek unknowingly, for He Himself tells us in Matt. 7:7, "Ask,

and it shall be given you: **seek and ye shall find**; knock and it shall be opened unto you." Further, He Himself tells us in Matt. 6:33 what to seek for. "But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you." But note that the disciples of John, like John was seeking the Messiah. John 1:40-41 says, ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. ⁴¹ Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (which means "Christ"). ⁴⁵ Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "**We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus**, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." There seems to be more than a tinge of excitement in the voices (words) of these men. This is not dissimilar to woman who found her coin, or the father of the prodigal whose son found his way back home, or even the shepherd who found his lost sheep out on the lonely hill (Luke 15). But unlike the three illustrations the Messiah was not lost, neither was he hiding. This is best illustrated in the experience of Joseph and Mary in Luke 2:41-49. ⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. ⁴² When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as

usual. ⁴³ After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, ⁴⁴ because they assumed he was among the other travellers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. ⁴⁶ Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. ⁴⁷ All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere." ⁴⁹ "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"

So what are you seeking for? **Come and see**. In Psalm 34:8 we encouraged, to taste and see, implying that we have found, because you cannot taste what you do not have. So having come and seen we are encouraged to taste and see and as the Psalmist says, "O taste and see that the Lord is good." So have you come and seen and tasted? Have you found the Messiah? What is your verdict? Notice in the experience of

both Andrew and Philip, on finding the Messiah they did the same thing. Andrew “brought him (Peter, his brother) to Jesus” John 1:42; “Philip said unto him (Nathaniel), Come and see” John 1:46.

But note the Messiah not only bids up to come and see, “But seek the Kingdom of God above all else and His righteousness.” To seek is to search diligently, to pursue. If you are told to seek, it means you do not have, or in order to have the thing you are to be always seeking it. The latter seems to be what Messiah is saying to us.

But what is God’s righteousness that the Messiah bids us to seek? Righteousness, is it a thing or a person? Well in 1 Corinthians 1:30 we are told that, “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:” Further in Jeremiah 23:5, 6 we are told, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶ In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: **and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**” So righteousness is a person, even the Jesus the Messiah.

Closing thoughts

“Righteousness is love, and love is the light and life of God. The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him. MB p. 18

The Apostle Paul tells us “... put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ ...Rom. 13:14

“By receiving His imputed righteousness, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we become like Him. The image of Christ is cherished, and it captivates the whole being.” 6 BC p. 1098.

Yours in the Gospel of the Messiah

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