

Jesus Worthy of Worship – Right here!

Here are some Scriptures and questions to help you go deeper as you reflect on the impact of the presence of Jesus in our lives. The power of the with-God life!

<p>It's personal...</p> <p>'Come, follow me...' 1:17, 2:14</p> <p>Just like Jesus first disciples we are personally known, chosen and invited to follow him</p> <p>I am known by God – Psalm 139 I am chosen – John 15:16, 1 Peter 1:2 It's an invitation into a relationship– John 1:10-13, Ephesians 1:4-5, John 14:23, John 15, 1 John 1:3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What has encountering Jesus meant for you?• Jesus' disciples were not just devoted to his teaching but to Jesus himself. What does my relationship with Jesus currently look like? As Dallas Willard said 'I have a devotional life but do I have a life of devotion?' How devoted am I to Jesus?• Where am I being a disciple of my culture, being more influenced by it than Jesus' teaching? (See Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:1-17)
<p>It's transformational...</p> <p>They left their nets & followed him' v 18/20</p> <p>Simon, Andrew, James, John and Levi's lives changed immediately as they left their old way of life to follow Jesus, but they kept on being changed as they lived life with him.</p> <p>The same is true for us. We exchange our old life for a new one when we become a follower of Jesus but spiritual transformation is an ongoing process. Inward change in our beliefs, values and attitudes leads to outward change in our actions. It can take time to change old habits and develop new ones.</p> <p>Further reading : 2 Corinthians 5:17 Colossians 3:1-17</p> <p>But we can't do this on our own. We need the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. See John 14:15-17 and 16:13-14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How is my life being transformed by Jesus? Old habits for new?• Where is my mind being renewed?

It's for a purpose...

'Healthy people don't need a doctor-sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.' Mark 2:17

As we put our trust in Jesus, we not only receive salvation and eternal life, but as his disciples, we are called to share our with-God life with others, so that we can make new disciples (Matthew 28: 19-20).

In Mark 2 Jesus attends a party at Levi's house and is accused of mixing with the wrong kind of people by the Scribes & Pharisees. In Jewish culture eating together was a sign of close relationship, of belonging and acceptance. Jesus is therefore extending a welcome to all, especially those on the fringes of society who were often overlooked.

Notice that Jesus says he has come not for those who think they are righteous, but for 'those who know they are sinners.' It's not only those on the fringe, who need Jesus.

We need to recognise that actually we too are 'sick people' to use Jesus words. We are on our own journey with him and need his presence with us day by day, embracing his gift of grace and his transforming power.

- How is my with-God life affecting those around me?
- What can I do to help give people a sense of belonging and acceptance?
- Who can I reach out to and invite to join me round my table?