

## “GOD INTRODUCES JESUS. WILL YOU BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH HIM?”

Text: Matt. 3:17; John 1:12

### Intro:

All of us are familiar with introductions. We've been introduced to others and as a result, many lasting and wholesome acquaintances have been formed.

For 2,000 years, God has been saying to man the words of the texts. Jesus has been stretching forth His hand, waiting for you and me to put our hand in His, to become acquainted and live in joyous fellowship with Him. But men have been saying, "No room for Jesus in my inn. Others accept Him."

See John 1:12.

What does it mean to receive Jesus, to become acquainted with Him? It means to take Jesus to be to yourself all that God offers Him to be to everybody. What does God offer His Son to be to us?

### Body of Sermon:

#### 1. As Our Sin-Bearer

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:22, 23)

So far, our generation has not been noted for its conscience on sin. The sense of sin has grown faded and dim. People do not blush anymore. Sinners used to "pull the shades down," but today sin is treated as respectable.

The publican's chant is not a popular tune. Sackcloth and ashes are out of fashion with us. There's a crying need for the exposure of sin to the Savior Christ. It behooves humanity to come to the realization of the terrible sinfulness of sin.

Sin must get out. It enslaves. It must be laid bare to the light of truth.

Sin has a remedy. Hinduism says that sin must be paid for by our own sufferings and endeavors. But this is a hopeless solution. Buddhism says the remedy is non-existence. Escape from sin by way of despair. Mohammedanism says the remedy for sin is fatalism—that man can do nothing about it. And the superficial thought of the rank and file of our modern people is that education, science, ethics and sociology will save us. But all the while, sin multiplies. And people are despairing of being able to save themselves.

Now if we bore our sins, it would mean banishment from God, for God is holy. But God has provided Jesus to bear our sins in our place. (See 2 Cor. 5:21 and Galatians 3:13)

God's righteousness is not by obedience, but through repentance, confession, forgiveness and faith. To receive Jesus as our sin-bearer is to believe God's testimony about His Son, to believe that Jesus Christ did die and bear our sins on His own body on the tree, and to trust God to forgive all our sins because Jesus has borne them in our place.

## 2. Deliverer From the Power of Sin.

Jesus not only died, He rose again. Today He's a Living Savior, sitting at the right hand of God, interceding, praying for you and me.

Just before leaving the world, Jesus said to His disciples, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Through faith we become partakers of the Christ life--we share in His victory over the evil one.

If we try to fight sin in our own strength, we are bound to fail. Too often we're like the Israelites on the borders of Canaan. They failed to enter because they thought of their own strength in the face of giants and walled cities. They took the battle away from God and the enemy was too strong. I care not what your weakness or temptations may be.

Jesus is interested in you, He cares for you and He can keep you from falling. (See Jude 24; Hebrews 7:25; I Cor. 10:13)

When Satan knocks at our door, we need to send Jesus to the door and the enemy will leave. To receive Jesus is to believe this that God tells us in His Word about Him, to believe that He did rise from the dead, that He now lives, that He has power to keep us from the power of sin day by day, and just trust Him to do it. This is the secret of daily victory over sin.

## 3. As Our Lord and King.

See Acts 2:36.

Now Lord means "Divine Master." Christ means "Anointed King." There must be an unconditional surrender of our lives to Christ--body, mind, will, and spirit, so that the question from this time forth is never, "What do others do, What would I like to do, or What do others tell me to do, but What would my King Jesus have me do?"

Have you crowned Him Lord of all? Many shrink back from this entire surrender. They wish to serve Jesus with half-heart and part of themselves and possessions.

But when one is "full of self, there is no room for Christ." The life of entire surrender is a joyous life. It's surrender to a Father whose wisdom exceeds an earthly father, whose love was more tender than an earthly mother. We must say, "All for Jesus," from our knees.

Taking Christ as your Lord involves obedience to His will as far as you know it in each smallest detail of life. Some say they've accepted Christ as Lord, but disobey Him daily in business, domestic and social life, and in personal conduct. We haven't taken Jesus as King if we're not striving to obey Him. (See Luke 6:46)

And so I plead with you and will you listen to God saying to you, "This is My beloved Son, the Sin-Bearer who forgives sin, the Risen Savior who will keep you each day from evil, the Lord and King to whom you surrender the absolute control of your life." If you'll receive Him as such and form His acquaintance, your life will be one of beauty and satisfaction.