

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

May 20, 2025 – Jesus, Our Magnificent Obsession – Erlinda Cruz

Encountering the Magnificence of Jesus (Prov. 2:1-5)

Here's Apostle Paul's declaration:

"Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ (the Anointed One),"

Philippians 3:8 AMPC

Here's another translation:

"The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ.

Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung.

I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—God's righteousness."

Philippians 3:7-9 MSG

Another one:

"To truly know him meant letting go of everything from my past and throwing all my boasting on the garbage heap. It's all like a pile of manure to me now, so that I may be enriched in the reality of knowing Jesus Christ and embrace him as Lord in all of his greatness. My passion is to be consumed with him and not cling to my own "righteousness" based in keeping the written Law. My only "righteousness" will be his, based on the faithfulness of Jesus Christ—the very righteousness that comes from God."

Philippians 3:8-9

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Now that is the goal of our lives, that we would be obsessed with this man, and the reason that that is our goal is because He is worth it. His worth demands this kind of response, but that is not so obvious to the people of the Lord. He is the most unique being, fully God, fully man, and He longs to reveal Himself to us in a way that touches our spirit. I don't mean just to reveal His forgiveness or His healing power or provide for us economically—certainly those things, but He wants us to encounter the awestruck wonder and fascination with who He is.

Now the term “magnificent obsession” is an oxymoron. It is a contradiction of terms, and the reason is because almost every obsession of the human heart is very destructive; it causes pain and grief and loss. However, there is one obsession, with one man, that liberates us, that brings us into our destiny; that fills us with spiritual pleasure, and crowns us with glory.

That obsession with this most unique man, again, fully God, fully man—however, so much of the Church is so distant from this lifestyle and this kind of reality.

The challenge is that so many, when they think of Jesus, think of Him in terms of the One that forgave them. And He did. The One who stamped their passport, so to speak, so now they go to heaven instead of hell.

Many in the Church think of Jesus mostly in terms of One who forgives them and “stamps their passport” so they can go to heaven. They only see One who heals, provides, directs, and blesses circumstances. He is much more.

The best-kept secret in the Church is Jesus' magnificence.

Prayer:

Abba let me enter into that place of obsession for the person of Jesus. Beyond stamping my passport to heaven, let me enter His place of presence where I will be engulfed in the vastness of His magnificence.