

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

June 1, 2025 – Jesus, Our Magnificent Obsession – Erlinda Cruz

How You See Jesus is Your Victory... The Church's Victory! (Part 2)

"The most revealing thing about the Church is her ideas about God"

The Church's most significant message is what she says about Him or what she leaves unsaid about Him. Tozer says that a hundred lesser evils are caused in the Church and in our lives because of this one great lack of the knowledge of God, that we cannot refuse temptation when our spirit is dull and we are spiritually bored—we cannot consistently refuse temptation.

And so we think we have got to try harder. But the truth is, we need to see more clearly. We need to see more, not just try harder. Because when our spirit is invigorated, when our spirit is touched by who this man is—not just the assurance that we are forgiven, but by who this man is, not just that we are going to be blessed and life is going to be a little bit easier, but by who He is—there is something about a vibrant spirit that gives us a very different approach to temptation.

I tell you, a man or a woman with a vibrant spirit can look at immorality, they can look at bitterness, they can look at covetousness, they can look at complaining, they can look at boredom right in the eye and say no to it. They have a little bit of that vibrancy in their spirit and that is all about the knowledge of God. Like I said, "Lord, if I can see what Paul saw, I can live like Paul lived." It is an issue of seeing, because there is a dynamic connection between seeing and responding.

The most important question in your life, the most important question in your ministry is: "Who do you say I am?"

The question is not "Do you like" Jesus? but...That is not necessarily going to transform you in the way you want to be transformed. It is a beginning. It is good. You need to know who it is you are encountering, What do you imagine Him to be like when it is just you and Him, in your own private thoughts.

What do you see? What do you think about in detail? And again, most people would say they do not think that much; we do not think that deeply. Our thoughts are too few and our thoughts are too low.

...not as a rebuke... let's make a determination in the grace of God that our thoughts would be much and our thoughts would be deep... A low view of Jesus keeps us in bondage, keeps our spirit dull. But listen, a low view of Jesus keeps us trapped in spiritual boredom.

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In Ephesians 4:11-13 Paul gives a very interesting prophecy. He is talking about the end-time Church. He is describing how the Church functions throughout two thousand years of church history, but He is actually going to the end, the levels the Church is going to attain to.

This is not describing the Church in heaven. This is describing the Church on earth. He gave some apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. And He anoints men and women in the Church for this reason—to equip and help believers.

To help believers do what? Verse 13: “till they come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God.” That is the phrase I want to look at. Wait a second.

Why do believers need to come to the knowledge of Jesus? I thought believers had the knowledge of Jesus or they could not be a believer. Paul is not talking about apostles and prophets helping the Church to be assured they are forgiven. He is not talking about forgiveness.

He is saying that God is going to anoint the Church to convince the people about the splendor of the man Jesus, so that they are filled with the knowledge of Him. This is talking about intimacy. It is not talking about the initial entrance into the kingdom.

The greatest need in the Church is that we would connect with the knowledge of the Son of God. God is raising up ministries. Again, whether the marketplace, the government, education, the pulpit, the classroom, the boardroom, the warehouse, wherever it is, the sports arena—determine that you are going to preach—not yourself—you are going to preach the unsearchable riches of that Man (Eph. 3:8).

This is what the Holy Spirit is wanting to anoint. He is waiting for people to say it, sing it, show it forth in drama, in many ways, through technology. God is saying, “Make known the Man and I will anoint it.” But there are so few making known this Man.

God is asking us to talk about the unsearchable wealth and the glory of the Man. So we determine today: I am going to preach this. But it is not enough to speak it, because it has to come out of our spirit. We have to encounter Him. If we speak words only, we are just an echo.

A sermon born in the mind will only reach the mind. A sermon born in the heart, meaning that we do it in our private life, will move the hearts of others...we must preach the unsearchable riches of this Man.

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We want Jesus to be the magnificent obsession of our lives.

Yes, we are going to talk about forgiveness as part of the riches.

We are going to talk about prophetic direction.

We are going to talk about physical healing.

We are going to talk about many facets of His riches.

But more than all, we want to talk about the wealth of who He is.

Not just what He does, though of course what He does is an expression of who He is; but there is more about Him that we want to touch.

(To be continued.)

Prayer:

Father God we are amazed at the revelation that Jesus is the wealth...

Your precious Sons... our Lord... our savior.

Give us a revelation of Jesus as the ultimate wealth and riches of heaven...