

JESUS THE



PDF BOOKLET



BY PATRICK WALTON

JESUS THE

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JESUS THE

THERE is a ton of talk today about who Jesus is and what He is all about. The April 9th 2012 Newsweek magazine had Jesus pictured as a metro-sexual in the midst of Manhattan, calling His people to “leave the Church and follow Him.” After reading the article I was touched by the partial truths, but also really frustrated by the many truths that were left out concerning Jesus’ life and ministry.

It’s my passion to help you understand Jesus in four of His primary descriptions. Over these four sessions I will be covering *Jesus the Bridegroom*; *Jesus the Healer*; *Jesus the Advocate*; and *Jesus the Deliverer*. I want to encourage you to read through this special series. Maybe you have never known Jesus before, or maybe you have known Jesus in the past, but are confused about Him right now in your present.

These sessions will be geared towards helping you understand Jesus through various encounters that people had with Him throughout His life on earth. You will see Christ in both a personal and global way. He is personal in that He’s your Bridegroom, Healer, Savior and Advocate; He is global because He is also the great Deliverer. I am expectant for you to encounter the glory of God in the face of Christ in a greater measure.



**PATRICK
WALTON**

Session One

"Jesus The Bridegroom"

Jesus The Bridegroom.

I) Introduction

- A) In these four session's we are going to be looking at four different facets of Jesus Christ. One of our core values is "The revelation of Jesus Christ" and to fully value the revelation of Jesus Christ we must come to love Him in the many different facets that He possesses.
- B) During this series we are going to look at "Jesus the Bridegroom" "Jesus the healer" "Jesus the advocate" and "Jesus the Deliverer." It's my passion in a brief way to connect you to four different facets of Jesus Christ.
- C) Jesus is like a multifaceted diamond with each facet strengthening the others and never diminishing any of the facets.

II) What Is The Bridegroom Message?

- A) Having a bridal paradigm means that the lens or perspective that we are looking through is one of love, devotion and faithfulness. We are referred to as many things in the Word of God, but for us to encounter and live in the experience of the love of God it's best that we look through the lens of bridal love.
- B) Bridegroom simply means = "A man just married or about to be married."
- C) The Bible doesn't refer to us as being married to Jesus in this age, but rather betrothed or engaged to God. But this shouldn't keep us from loving God faithfully now.
 - 1) **2nd Corinthians 11:2** *"For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."*
- D) Jesus is currently living as a Man engaged to a fiancé called the Church. Jesus' goal for His Church is that she live towards Him in this age in the same manner that He is living towards her.
 - 1) **2nd Timothy 2:12** *"...If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He (remains) faithful; He cannot deny Himself."*
 - 2) **Revelation 19:11** *"...He was called Faithful and True..."*
- E) The Bridegroom message is that " God's love for us is the strength of our faithfulness towards Him and living faithfully to Him now in this age, not only in the age which is yet to come.

III) The Bridegroom God Of The Old Testament.

- A) Although the language of God as a Bridegroom is found as early as **Genesis 1-3** it was Hosea, Isaiah and Jeremiah who first described God in plain term as a Bridegroom.

- B) Hosea prophesied between 755-710 B.C. and was most noted for God's instruction to Him to marry a prostitute. This marriage between Hosea and Gomer (the prostitute) would become a message of God's burning jealousy for His people and their harlotry towards Him.

1) **Hosea 2:2,5,7,16** *"...for she is not My wife, nor am I her Husband! Let her put away her harlotries from her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts...for she said, I will go after my lovers, who give me bread and my water...then she will say, I will go and return to my first husband, for then it was better for me than now...and it shall be in that day says the Lord, that you will call Me My Husband, and no longer call Me My Master..."*

- C) Isaiah who prophesied around the same time as Hosea from 740-680 B.C. would also proclaim the message that this Holy God they had known, was also a Bridegroom with passion for His people.

1) **Isaiah 62:4-5** *"...but you shall be called Hephzibah (My delight is in her) and Beulah (Literally married) for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married...and as the Bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you."*

IV) The Bridegroom God Of The New Testament and us.

- A) The streams of God being a Bridegroom would find their fulfillment in the sea of New Testament letters and epistles as nearly every writer would to some extent write on the Bridegroom God, Jesus Christ.

- B) John the Baptist would be the first person in the New Testament to trumpet the message that Jesus Christ is a Bridegroom filled with love, passion and faithfulness.

1) **John 3:29-30** *"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase and I must decrease."*

- C) Jesus declared Himself to be a Bridegroom by saying *"...but the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them...the Kingdom of heaven is like a certain man who arranged a wedding for His Son...then the Kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins...who went out to meet the bridegroom."* (Matthew 9:15;22:2;25:1).

- D) The goal of living through the bridal paradigm (perspective) is the internal understanding that we have been brought near the One who created us. Though He is Holy, He is a lover (Bridegroom) who desires His creation to be with Him where He is.

- E) Living through the bridal paradigm (perspective) empowers our hearts to become free from compromise, condemnation, shame, guilt and rejection. Those emotions keep us from growing in love. Most of our compromise is rooted in feeling rejected by God.

- F) If you feel dirty (sinful), you live dirty. But if you feel clean (loved), you live clean.

- G) In November of 2005 I was traveling over the Snoqualmie Pass and I had a several hour encounter with the Lord while driving to preach for the weekend. This is what the Lord said to me;

1) Son, My bride isn't ready to walk into the Church right now. If she were to come in right now for the wedding day, the Church wouldn't stand to their feet because there's nothing

- adoring on her to capture the attention of the nations. He said that her makeup wasn't done, her dress is short, torn, trashy and dirty. She's wearing no perfume, no jewelry and she looks like she hasn't showered in days. Her hairs not done and she's barefooted.
- 2) Then He said to me, "in fact right now she's in bed with other lovers and won't even answer the door for Me. Behold, I am standing at the door knocking, but she won't come. She's too ashamed, and covered in guilt and doesn't even understand that I will heal her if she will only open the door." But He said that "when she is unfaithful to Me, I am faithful to her because I can't deny Myself. I will stand at the door and keep knocking, but I won't force My way in. Over time My strong love will win her over, but this is where she is right now."

Session One Extra Reading

The name Jesus means a lot of things to a lot of people today. Being a Christian means even more things to even more people. Within our culture there are many people who are working to define Jesus Christ in terms of what best suits them and accommodates their lives. Though the Church has always worked to reach their culture and other cultures which have presented themselves throughout world history, defining Jesus in human terms is detrimental to the structural integrity of the Local Church. The local Church, according to Jesus Christ, is always to be founded upon the Biblical Revelation of who He is (**Revelation 1:1**). This is what scholars call *revelation*; it differs greatly from what is called *speculation*. In short, *speculation* is man's attempt to understand God and *revelation* is God revealing Himself to man by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the Bible.

As people who are working to Encounter Jesus, our number one value is that *we value the Revelation of Jesus Christ*. This means that we are committed to preaching, teaching, worshiping, praying to and sharing Jesus with people both locally and globally. This also means that we don't want to focus only on one facet (aspect) of who Jesus is, but we want to focus on the many and varied facets of who Jesus is, according to the Bible. The Bible presents many facets of Jesus which make up the whole. In the book of Revelation Jesus is presented in five main and very clear facets as being a Bridegroom, King, Prophet, Judge and Priest. He is the One who loves (Bridegroom), judges (Judge), sacrifices Himself for others (Priest), tells the truth (Prophet), and the One who possesses all power, authority and glory (King). As Christians we want to come to love these five facets, along with the many other facets of Jesus' personality.

As I cover truths in this series, "*Jesus the _____*," I am going to be covering four major facets of Jesus Christ. In this Chapter, I will be covering *Jesus the Bridegroom*. In the ones following, I will cover *Jesus the Healer*; *Jesus the Advocate*; and *Jesus the Deliverer*. In this chapter I am going to be covering what the Bridegroom message is: the Bridegroom God of the Old Testament, of the New Testament, and of us. This series is shorter, which means I won't have time to get into great detail about the subject matter, but hopefully it's enough to spark your appetite for discovering the truth about Jesus in four different facets.

What Is The Bridegroom Message?

I have found it very helpful to think about Jesus as a Diamond. What I mean by this is that when looking at a diamond we quickly notice that there is more than just one facet. The same thing is true about Jesus. Jesus has many facets, or faces, in that He is described as being like different things. Just because a diamond has many facets doesn't mean that the various facets take away from the whole, because the different facets actually work to make up the whole. And the same thing is true with Jesus. Now, I have said all this for a reason. In Church we tend to look and focus on only one facet of Jesus, neglecting the many others. We do this by preaching only about Jesus being a God of love. Yes, it is true that Jesus is love, but that doesn't mean He's not also a judge at the same, exact time. So instead of only giving ourselves to the study of Jesus in one facet, we want to continue to spin the diamond called Christ and come to love the various facets He possesses.

The Bridegroom message is about having, or looking through, a bridal paradigm. That word paradigm simply means perspective or lens. All of us have a paradigm when it comes to viewing certain things, but when it comes to the body of Christ and the family of God, there are many ways to view ourselves. We

are like a *family*, an *army*, *servants*, *friends* and *workers*. But for us to encounter the love of God and to live in the experience of it, I believe it's best to look through a bridal perspective. What I mean by this is that we view both ourselves and the Kingdom of God as that of a Bridegroom and bride making our way to a wedding.

The word Bridegroom simply means, *A man just married or about to be married*. The Bible doesn't refer to the Church as currently being married to Jesus, but rather betrothed or engaged. Some people consider this to be a good thing, and others see this as an easy way out of living wholeheartedly right now. Unfortunately, people when they are in physical relationships with the opposite sex in this age take their engagement to mean they can live however they would like to until they are actually married. Some see their bachelor and bachelorette parties as their one last night of fun before the *ole ball 'n chain*. This is what Paul had to say to the Corinthian Church in **1st Corinthians 11:2** "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

Paul assumed that their relationship to Jesus was that of an engaged bride making herself ready for her wedding day, when she would be presented to her husband in purity and righteousness, adorned in the beauty of maturity. Not a loose-living harlot that was engaged to one husband, all the while chasing other lovers and living in immaturity. Right now at this very moment, and for nearly 2,000 years, Jesus Christ has been living as an engaged Man waiting patiently for His bride, waiting to be presented to her on the day of His wedding, the day of the gladness of His heart. But it's not enough that Jesus is living as an engaged Man, He also requires those in relationship with Him to live in the same manner towards Him.

The Bible speaks about the faithfulness of God in terms of longevity, persistence and endurance throughout all of this age, even into the age which is yet to come. **2nd Timothy 2:12** says "...If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He (REMAINS) faithful: He cannot deny Himself." And when John saw Heaven open in **Revelation 19:11** he saw a Man (Jesus Christ) who had a name written on that said "...He was called Faithful and True..." Paul saw the faithfulness of Jesus as something that He possessed more than Paul possessed. This was something that came from Jesus to Paul not something that came from Paul and was given to Jesus. And when John saw Jesus in **Revelation 19** He saw that the name written on Jesus was actually the word *faithful*. It's not that Jesus acts faithfully, but that He *is* faithful. Rather than something He *does*, it's who He is.

The Bridegroom message is that *God's love for us is the strength of our faithfulness towards Him*. What this means is that the strength of our faithfulness to God is not our faithfulness to Him. It's His great love for us that empowers us to return to Him and live faithfully towards Him. Often times we are working to present our own faithfulness to Jesus as if it originates in us. This is called humanism and it's disgusting to Jesus. It's disgusting to Jesus because as the Creator and Sustainer of all things, He understands that we have nothing to present to Him other than our willingness and our reception of His love for us. It's those two things that empower us to live faithfully to Him. So you want to make sure that your faithfulness towards Jesus isn't rooted in your own passion, but in His great love for you.

The Bridegroom God of the Old Testament

There are two main ditches on the either side of the road when it comes to the Bridegroom message within the body of Christ. The first ditch is to emphasize it to the detriment of other subjects in the

Word of God; to take the message into places of sensuality that the Bible never intends it to go. The other ditch is to neglect the subject and throw out both the meat and the bones, instead of eating the meat and spitting out the bones. Although the language of God being a Bridegroom is found as early as **Genesis 1-3** it was Hosea, Isaiah and Jeremiah who first described God in plain terms as a Bridegroom. These Old Testament prophets would take a facet of God which hadn't been readily known to the nation of Israel and two of the three would begin to trumpet the truth that God, God Almighty isn't just a powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God, but that He is also a Bridegroom who has burning desire for His creation. This message would shock the nation much as it still shocks the people of God today.

Hosea who prophesied around 710 B.C. was most known for his unusual marriage, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to a prostitute named Gomer. The marriage Hosea entered into would actually become a message, a prophetic message to the nation of Israel, about their spiritual harlotry towards the Living God. Here are a few words that are recorded from the book of Hosea. **Hosea 2:2, 5,7,16** *"...for she is not My wife, nor am I her Husband! Let her put away her harlotries from her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts...for she said, I will go after my lovers, who give me bread and my water...then she will say, I will go and return to my first husband, for then it was better for me than now...and it shall be in that day says the Lord, that you will call Me My Husband, and no longer call Me My Master..."* Hosea would love this woman Gomer, even though she would continually be unfaithful to him, God would require Hosea to remain faithful to her. This marriage was a powerful demonstration of the ravished heart of God for His creation and of His passion to have a people belonging solely to Him.

Around the same time as Hosea, another prophet by the name Isaiah was prophesying during 700 B.C. Isaiah would also proclaim a message that God was a Bridegroom with burning passion for His people. Isaiah 62:4-5 *"...but you shall be called Hephzibah (My delight is in her) and Beulah (Literally married) for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married...and as the Bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you."* It was a real challenge for the nation of Israel to wrap their minds around the idea that a Holy God, would rejoice over His creation in the same way a Bridegroom rejoices over his bride. God's passion has always been that He would have a people who love Him in the same way He loves them; this would be defined in the terms of a marriage, or covenant.

The Bridegroom God of the New Testament and Us

The streams of conversation flowing throughout the Old Testament concerning God being a Bridegroom would ultimately find their fulfillment in the sea of bridal language of the New Testament. Nearly every book from the Gospels to the Epistles would use some form of marriage language about God being a Bridegroom God. Springing up from the wilderness prior to Jesus' baptism there would be a loud prophet who previously had been hidden in prayer and fasting, but now would be made manifest to the children of Israel with a trumpet proclaiming the coming of Jesus Christ, the great Bridegroom God. This man would be John the Baptist.

In **John 3:29-30** John the Baptist speaks about Jesus and His Bridegroom reality by saying *"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase and I must decrease."* These words would be the first recorded scriptures in the New Testament speaking of Jesus in terms of a Bridegroom, with passion for His people. Many have assumed that John was a *wild hair*, with an eccentric personality, but I don't believe this to be the case. Though it's fun to paint him as a wild man, I believe he was joyful beyond description. In the above passage we get great clarity into his

sound mind and his passion to just listen to the voice of the Bridegroom. John's joy was full in hearing Jesus' voice and being near Him. John the Baptist: a friend of the bridegroom.

Jesus Himself would proclaim that He alone was the Bridegroom and that this facet represented His faithfulness, love, and devotion to His creation. Jesus declared Himself a Bridegroom by saying *"...but the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them...the Kingdom of heaven is like a certain man who arranged a wedding for His Son...then the Kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins...who went out to meet the bridegroom"* (Matthew 9:15;22:2;25:1). These are but a few snippets of Jesus' vast amount of conversation about Him being a Bridegroom.

These writers help us understand that living through the bridal paradigm (perspective) is the internal understanding that we have been brought near the One who created us. That though He is holy, He is a lover (Bridegroom) who desires His creation to be with Him where He is. When we live through this perspective, it empowers our hearts to become free from offense, bitterness, hurt, disappointment, shame, guilt and condemnation. Those things will hinder the development of your heart, as it longs to grow in love. Those things are weeds which will choke out the growth of your own heart.

It's my belief that if you feel dirty (sinful) you will live dirty, but if you feel clean (loved) you will live clean. Take time to begin developing a relationship with Jesus as the great Bridegroom of the entire Bible who understands you, knows your struggles, and still longs to marry you forever. This is your story, and the fruit of this story will be reaped only as you press into this reality in the heart of God.

Session Two

“Jesus The Healer”

Jesus The Healer.

I) Introduction

- A) One of my core values is “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” This means that I want to understand and love Jesus not just in one facet (love) but in His many facets (Judge). As the people of God we want to love the full revelation of Jesus Christ.

II) The Dual Nature Of Jesus’ Healing Ministry.

- A) As humans we tend to emphasize one thing while neglecting the other thing. We do this when it comes to the healing nature of Jesus’ ministry. Many in the body of Christ talk about Jesus’ physical healing ministry or His emotional healing ministry. But few focus on both.

- 1) **3rd John 1:2** *“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health (physical), just as your souls prosper (emotional).”*

- B) John is making it clear that Jesus’ healing ministry is two-fold. It has to do with physical health and it has to do with emotional health. Jesus is passionate about both, because they actually go hand in hand. Our physical healing is often connected to our emotional healing.

- C) Our physical healing has to do with things like sickness, blindness, deafness, birth defects, allergies, sports injuries, disease and any other ailment we might have.

- D) Our emotional healing has to do with things like internal trauma, verbal abuse, abusive relationships, low self esteem, childhood-trauma, abandonment issues, inappropriate sexual activity and the many other things we struggle with internally.

- 1) **Luke 17:11-19** *“...There met Him ten men who were lepers...and they lifted up their voices and said “Jesus, Master have mercy on us! So when He saw them, He said to them, Go show yourselves to the Priests. And so it was, as they went they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks...Jesus said, were there not 10 cleansed? But where are the nine?...He said to him, arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”*

- (i) This passage illustrates clearly Jesus’ passion to heal physically and emotionally. He was healed and then made well (whole).

III) Jesus’ Physical Healing Ministry.

- A) Right now Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit is restoring the gift of healing to the body of Christ world-wide and won’t be through “a” person but through “a people.”
- B) The nature of Jesus is that of a healer. It’s not what He does, but rather who He is. Jesus hates broken things, sick bodies and a decaying physical environment. Your body is longing to be made new and so also is our physical creation. **Ex. 15:26 Jehovah Ropha = healer, physician of men.**

- 1) **Matthew 9:35** *"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."*
- 2) **Acts 10:23** *"...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."*

- C) It's the will of God to heal the sick. When we heal the sick, we are demonstrating the Kingdom of God in part, which is the evidence of a yet coming Kingdom. It's both here and yet coming.
- D) I've including a few slides that aren't on your notes. They are on the powerpoint.
- E) Jesus never once turned anyone away that came to Him for something in the Gospels. Here are some of Jesus' responses towards people;

Preaching the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all the disease among the people.

And they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon possessed, epileptics and paralytics and He healed them.⁶⁶

Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him saying, I am willing be cleansed.

I will come and heal him.

Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.

So He touched her hand and the fever left her.

And He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.

Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.

Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.

Be of good cheer, daughter your faith has made you well.

He took the girl by the hand and she arose.

According to your faith let it be to you.

He went about preaching the Kingdom, and healing every disease among the people.

Stretch out your hand.

He healed them all.

And He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

He saw them and had compassion on them and He healed their sick.

And as many as touched Him were made perfectly well.

O women great is your faith! Let it be to you as you have desired.

He healed many who were lame, maimed, blind, mute and many others and He healed them.

Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was healed from that very hour.

And great multitudes followed Him there, and He healed them.

Jesus said what do you want Me to do for you?

So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and followed Jesus.

Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple and He healed them.

- 1) **Revelation 21:4-5** *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new..."*

F) Healing the sick now, resurrecting the dead and recreating the earth aren't difficult for Jesus. If Jesus will do it later, He will do it in part now. He's the same!

IV) Jesus' Healing Ministry Through The Church.

A) I have often made reference to an unbiblical statement saying, "seek the Giver not the gifts." The truth is we are called to do both seek God and seek for His gifts.

- 1) **1st Cor. 12:9,28 14:1** *"...to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit...And God has appointed these in the Churches; first Apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings...Pursue love, and desire spiritually gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."*

(i) **Desire** = Covet-earnestly, envy, be jealous over, be zealous for, emulation and to be fervently-minded.

B) Jesus sent His disciples out with the express purpose of healing the sick;

- 1) **Matthew 10:1,7-8** *"And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease...and as you go, preach, saying the Kingdom of God is at hand (within reach). Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead (physical/spiritual) and cast out demons."*

C) When you pray for the sick, don't beg, or even ask so much as declare, prophesy and proclaim healing over their bodies.

- 1) **Acts 3:6** *"Then Peter said, Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have (the Holy Spirit, faith and power) I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*
- 2) **Luke 18:1-8** The power of this parable is in its contrasting illustrations not in their similarities. It's not that God is like the unjust Judge, it's that God is totally unlike the unjust Judge.

Session Two

Central to the Christian faith is what the Bible calls *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Jesus not only makes mention of the fact that He is a Cornerstone, but that He is the *Chief Cornerstone* (**Matthew 21:42-42**). The cornerstone is the stone that is first set in the foundation of the building upon which every other stone is set. All the other stones within the building will be measured off this cornerstone. This gives so much more understanding to the centrality of Jesus in all things.

It's through this lens, or perspective, that I am to continue talking about another facet of Jesus Christ. In this chapter I am going to cover the facet of Jesus as the *Healer*. This is not the only facet of Jesus, but it is a rather large one, and it's one I believe the Holy Spirit is working to restore to the body of Christ. There are lots of different denominations and religious groups that believe many different things about the healing ministry of Jesus and how it relates to today, but from even a casual reading of the Bible it would be virtually impossible to walk away with the idea that Jesus doesn't intend to heal anybody today. Many groups heal the sick in different ways, but what's most important is that the sick are being healed. How it gets done isn't nearly as important as the reality of the sick actually being healed in Jesus' name. In this chapter I am going to cover the dual nature of Jesus' healing ministry, Jesus' physical healing ministry and Jesus' healing ministry through the Church today.

The Dual Nature of Jesus' Healing Ministry

It was John Calvin that originally said, *when we idolize we also demonize*. This is true in nearly every part of our human experience. When we idolize women we demonize men. When we idolize a specific political party we demonize the other political parties. When we idolize one style of music we demonize the many other styles. The same thing often happens in the Church. We tend to emphasize one part of something while we wholly neglect the many other parts. And this often happens with Jesus' healing ministry.

There are many voices in the body of Christ today who emphasize Jesus' emotional healing ministry while they tear down Jesus' physical healing ministry. And there are others in the body of Christ who emphasize Jesus physical healing ministry while tearing down Jesus' emotional healing ministry. It's the activity of the Holy Spirit to bring these two realities together and never to separate them. Through John the Beloved, God the Holy Spirit inspired him to write this in **3rd John 1:2** "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health (physical) just as your souls prosper (emotional)." John was letting us in on a secret to the human body and that is, our physical healing is directly related to our emotional healing. Our physical healing is connected to the internal emotional healing of our souls and there process of restoration.

Our physical healing has to do with things like sickness, blindness, physical death, deafness, birth defects, allergies, sports injuries, disease and any other ailment that you might have. And when it come to emotional healing it has to do with things like internal trauma, verbal abuse, abusive relationships, low self-esteem, childhood-trauma, abandonment issues, fatherless-ness/motherless-ness, inappropriate sexual activity and the many other things that we struggle with.

Something that I (Patrick Walton) love to do is help people through the many emotional wounds that people today carry. It's a real passion of mine to help people see what's going on internally and help

them sort it out so that they can live free from the encumbering weights that emotional wounds cause. I have been helped both through the Holy Spirit and through gifted counselors to overcome some of the emotional wounds I have carried throughout life; for them I am forever grateful. It's from this freeing experience that I long to help others in the same way. There is a story in the Gospel of Luke that clearly illustrates the connection between our emotional and physical healing. **Luke 17:11-19** *"...There met Him ten men who were lepers...and they lifted up their voices and said 'Jesus, Master have mercy on us! So when He saw them, He said to them, Go show yourselves to the Priests. And so it was, as they went they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks...Jesus said, were there not 10 cleansed? But where are the nine?...He said to him, arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."*

It's here that though the leper was originally healed/ cleansed it wasn't until he returned that he was made whole, or made well as the NKJV says. There is a big difference between being healed and being made well or made whole. This man was originally healed by the power of God, but it was from the power of physical healing that his heart was touched towards God and he returned. And as he returned to Christ, Jesus not only healed his physical body (leprosy) but Jesus also healed his emotional wounds. It's through this passage that I want to make clear, Jesus loves to do both.

Jesus' Physical Healing Ministry

For the rest of this chapter I would like to cover mainly the physical healing ministry of Jesus. It is my understanding from the Word of God and from the activity of the Holy Spirit over the past 100 years that God is working to restore the gift and ministry of healing to the body of Christ worldwide. This time, and even now, as the Holy Spirit is restoring it, He is not doing it through *a person* but through *a people*. What I mean by this is that throughout history we have seen a man anointed with the Holy Spirit and fire, and that man had a platform to heal the sick. I believe that now, though the body of Christ will still have individuals who have an unusual grace for healing the sick, God longs to anoint His entire body to go about healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out demons and preaching the Gospel.

The reason for this is because the nature of God elicits the activity of healing/restoration. Healing the sick, raising the dead and casting out demons aren't what God does, but rather who God is. Healing isn't something that He *does*, but rather who He *is*. He can't help but have compassion on His creation. Jesus hates broken things, sick bodies and a decaying physical environment. Your physical body is actually groaning along with our physical creation (earth) to be made new again. It is awaiting its re-creation. On the subject of God's healing nature, He actually revealed Himself to the children of Israel in **Exodus 15:16** as *Jehovah Rapha*. The word Rapha is pronounced "Raw-faw" and it means healer, physician, mender, physician of men and healer of nations. What God was showing the children of Israel is that His nature is that of a healer. It wasn't just a facet to God, but actually a part of who He is as a Person. It flowed and still flows from His very nature.

Matthew 9:35 says *"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."* And then **Acts 10:23** says *"...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."* These passages clearly speak about Jesus' ministry as it pertains to healing the sick. According to Luke, the author of Luke, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power to go about doing good, healing the sick. Healing the sick according to the Bible is actually doing *good*.

Though many disagree with what I am about to say, I will say it anyway. I believe that it's God's will to heal the sick. The reason why I believe this is because never one time in any of the four Gospels did Jesus send anyone away from Him without doing what they asked as it related to healing or deliverance. Jesus didn't mind healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out demons, cleansing the lepers and preaching the Gospel (good news) of the Kingdom of God with power. This is what He went about doing. You must change your mind-set when it comes to praying for the sick and seeing them recover. When you heal the sick, you are demonstrating the Kingdom of God which is the evidence of a yet coming Kingdom. The Bible doesn't teach something called Kingdom now, meaning the Kingdom of God is here in fullness. The Bible teaches we have been given the Kingdom of God to release in part, but we are still waiting for the fullness of the Kingdom which will be consummated at the Second Coming. Then, and only then, will the fullness of the Kingdom belong to the people of God. But right now, in this age, on this side of eternity we are commissioned by the Holy Spirit to release the Kingdom of God through us into the world in which we live.

I want to share you with a few phrases that Jesus said to the people when they came to Him looking for something. Here is a short list of statements;

"So He touched her hand and the fever left her."

"And He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick."

"Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you."

"Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

"Be of good cheer, daughter your faith has made you well."

"He took the girl by the hand and she arose."

"According to your faith let it be to you."

"He went about preaching the Kingdom, and healing every disease among the people."

"Stretch out your hand."

"He healed them all."

"And He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw."

"He saw them and had compassion on them and He healed their sick."

Again these are only a few of the many statements Jesus said to people that came to Him looking for something. When I first compiled this list some 6 years ago, I was blown away and discovered something very special for myself and something to share with others. This was a powerful reality that Jesus longs to give me what's needed in my life. My power isn't in healing, but in Jesus name.

Beloved, healing the sick now, raising the dead now, casting out demons now, and recreating the physical earth are not difficult tasks for Jesus to do. What we know is that Jesus is going to do these things in fullness in the age to come, and that means that He will do them in part right now in this age. Jesus loves to do these things, and it's His bride that has been given power to release the Kingdom power now.

Jesus' Healing Ministry through the Church

It's easy to pick up Christian statements that sound good. But often times when looking at these cliché statements I have come to find out that many of them aren't even Biblical. I have often said this phrase personally and have heard many people say it throughout my time being saved. We say, *Seek the Giver, not the gifts*. This phrase actually helped me receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit back in the day, but upon further review this great statement has more religion, than Bible origin. According to Paul in **1st**

Corinthians 12:9, 28; 14:1 gifts of healing aren't just given to the Church, but they are to be sought out. This is what that passage actually says *"...to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit...And God has appointed these in the Churches; first Apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings...Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."*

Now at a causal glance this passage might not move you into a pursuit of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but by just breaking open one word within this passage you will see that this is exactly what Paul is admonishing us to do. The word desire in the Greek actually means to covet-earnestly, to envy, be jealous over, be zealous for, emulation of, and to be fervently minded towards. These words to me surely seem like words of action concerning our pursuit of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It's not that we are to love the gifts more than we love God, but it's that we are to both love God and love His gifts. Another cliché statement said in the Church often is. *We just want Your face and not Your hand.* Though there is truth in this statement it's only a partial truth. We need both God's face and His hand if we are going to fulfill what He has called us into.

When looking at Jesus' exhortation to His disciples when He sent them out to do ministry, it's clear that they were going out with the primary purpose of healing the sick as well. **Matthew 10:1,7-8** says *"And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease...and as you go, preach saying the Kingdom of God is at hand (within reach). Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead (physical/spiritual) and cast out demons."* Jesus first calls them to Himself (His face) but then He gives them power (His hand) over all types of sickness and all types of disease. Jesus first calls us to Himself in intimacy and through that place of encounter or, as **Song of Songs 1:4** calls it, *the chamber encounter*. We are sent out with power to touch the lives of broken, hurting people in the grace of God.

Beloved, you have been given power over sickness and you are able to cast it out of people in the mighty name of Jesus. Don't shrink back from praying for the sick, contending for healing and exercising the gift you have been given. This is your portion in Christianity and you have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to do good work of healing those who are oppressed. When you pray for the sick, don't beg, plead or even ask, but rather command it, prophesy it, speak it and declare it. You will also have to be bold as you do this, and keep your eyes of faith on Jesus and the Word of God. When you are filled with the Word of God, you will come into circumstances where people have no faith for God to touch their lives, but through your faith, you can see them healed in Jesus name. Don't shrink back and don't delay. Go out and operate in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Session Three

"Jesus The Advocate"

Jesus The Advocate.

I) Introduction

- A) I personally value "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" as He is revealed in the Bible. This means I don't just love only one facet of Jesus (love), but we value the many facets of Jesus that are clearly seen throughout the scriptures (judge, prophet).
- B) In our current series I have covered "Jesus The Bridegroom" and "Jesus The Healer" and today I will be covering "Jesus The Advocate." The ministry of Jesus as The Advocate is a powerful facet of who He is and I believe it will connect with you in a deep way this morning.

II) What Is An Advocate?

- A) Merriam Webster's dictionary defines the word Advocate as;
 - 1) *One that pleads the cause of another, specifically one that pleads the cause of another before a judge or courtroom. One that defends or maintains the cause or proposal or one who supports or promotes the interest of others.*
- B) **1st John 2:1** *"My little children, these things I write to, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."*
- C) An Advocate according to both the Bible and the dictionary is a Person (Jesus Christ) who pleads our cause before God (judge, courtroom) and defends the interests of others.
- D) Jesus is the great Advocate of the human race, who physically stepped onto planet earth to take our place before the Father on the Cross. Now, Jesus makes intercession (prayer) to the Father on our behalf. Beloved, you Creator, who possesses all power is praying for you!
 - 1) **Romans 8:34** *"...It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God who also makes intercession (mediator, someone who stands in-between two parties) for us."*

III) Jesus' Earthly Ministry As An Advocate.

- A) **John 8:3-11** *"Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a women caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act. Now, Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do you say...So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first...Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the women standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the women, He said to her, woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you? She said, no one, Lord. And Jesus said to her, neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more..."*

- B) There are three main things I see happening in the life of this women as she encounters Jesus The Advocate;
- 1) Religious people struggle to handle the sin of others in compassionate ways and often lack a resolution other than punishment (**John 8:3-7**).
 - (i) John 8:3-7 *"Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a women caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act. Now, Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do you say...So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first..."*
 - (ii) If you have been abused, mistreated or rejected at the hands of Christians, I apologize and if it was me, I really apologize. Christians often misrepresent Jesus in ways that stain the Church publicly. Were guilty of mishandling both our sin and the sin of others.
 - (iii) Jesus The Advocate, always has a plan to both deal with sin, and love broken people.
 - 2) There's no crowd/situation to big for Jesus the Advocate (**John 8:8-10**).
 - (i) **John 8:8-10** *Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the women standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the women, He said to her, woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?*
 - (ii) Jesus the Advocate isn't intimidated by any sin, situation or surrounding. He loves to get into the middle of our world. Often it's not until later in our dilemma that we notice, Jesus is the only One left still standing with us.
 - (iii) We too, just like the women must learn to allow Jesus to fight for us and stand in the middle of both our sin and our circumstances.
 - 3) Jesus the Advocate loves us by always telling us the truth (**John 8:11**).
 - (i) **John 8:11** *where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you? She said, no one, Lord. And Jesus said to her, neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more..."*
 - (ii) Jesus The Advocate finds this women in terrible shape, humiliated, close to death, possibly half naked and thrown into the middle of a group of religious leaders. (she was caught in middle of having sex).
 - (iii) **John 1:17** *For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*
 - (iv) Beloved, Jesus is our Advocate when we stumble, but Jesus is not Our Advocate empowering us to continue in a lifestyle of sin and compromise.
 - (v) I see many Christians on Facebook and social media outlets venting and talking about their lives of immorality and how it's okay because they love God and "struggle."

- (vi) **Titus 2:11-15** *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...speak these things, exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you."*
- (vii) **Romans 6:13** *"And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."*
- (viii) Jesus is our Advocate before the Father, pleading our case, but this shouldn't empower us to live in sin, but rather free from sin, though we still struggle with sin.

Session Three Extra Reading

In this current series I have been talking about different facets of Jesus Christ. Previously I have covered *Jesus the Bridegroom* and *Jesus the Healer*. Though these are only two facets of Jesus Christ, He is actually a many-faceted diamond whose depth and width are impossible to fully search out. There is actually a doctrine in the Christian faith called the *Doctrine of incomprehensibility*. What this doctrine means is that as humans in this age and even in the age to come, the eternal age, nobody will ever fully search out just one attribute of the Godhead. You could start searching out the grace of God, or the facet of Jesus as our Bridegroom for a billion years and be no closer than when you first began. Saying all of that, our series which is short in duration, hopefully whets your appetite to know more about this great God who is longing to reveal Himself to His creation.

In this chapter I will be covering the third facet of Jesus in this series titled *Jesus the Advocate*. Some of you might have heard about what an advocate does, but maybe you never thought about Jesus Christ being one. It's my prayer in this chapter that you become connected with Jesus the Advocate in a life changing way. I am going to cover what is an advocate and Jesus' earthly ministry as an Advocate, as told through the story of the woman caught in adultery. Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes as we look into this glorious facet of the God Man Jesus Christ.

What Is An Advocate?

The term *advocate* is used often in the legal realm and within the court system. Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines an Advocate as: *One that pleads the cause of another, specifically one that pleads the cause of another before a judge or courtroom. An advocate is one that defends or maintains the cause or proposal of another; one that supports or promotes the interest of others.* This gives a very clear picture as to what an advocate does or what an advocate is. It's from this that we now go to the Bible to see what God has said about His role as an Advocate.

In 1st John 2:1 John the beloved says, "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." What a powerful verse. We begin to understand the implications that Jesus Christ is our Advocate and the Advocate of the human race. Wow! It's not always that the Bible and the Dictionary agree but here they do. According to both the Bible and the dictionary an Advocate is a Person (Jesus Christ) who pleads our cause before God (Judge, Courtroom) and defends the interests of others. It's important that as we continue through this series and this chapter specifically that we continually keep before our minds that Jesus Christ is a person, a physical Man. Because God entrusted creation to a physical man, so also a physical Man, a perfect Man had to come and redeem it back for us. This is why the book of Romans and other Epistles that Paul wrote refer to Jesus as the *Second Adam*, or a better Adam.

It's through the Bible, not just the New Testament that we come to understand that Jesus Christ is the great Advocate of the human race. He willingly stepped onto planet Earth to take our place, before the Father, on the Cross. I often say that *Jesus took our head off the chopping block and placed His head on there in my place*. He was the substitute; He takes our place and represents us before the Father. But now, right now, the Bible tells us that Jesus is still doing the work of an Advocate. **Romans 8:34** says, "It is Christ, who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God who also makes intercession (mediator, someone who stands in-between two parties) for us."

Have you thought about what your Advocate might be saying to the Father? Have you ever thought about what Jesus is saying to the Father regarding your life? What if you could stand in-between Jesus and the Father as Jesus talks about you and pleads your case before Him? We know from the previous message about *Jesus the Bridegroom* that He wouldn't be saying anything negative, or demeaning, but rather uplifting and you would hear words of contending for your greatness in Him. Beloved, He loves you and is fighting for your greatness more than you could ever know. This Man loves you and loves representing you before the Father. **Hebrews 2:11** says *"...He is not ashamed to call them brethren."* This passage tells us that Jesus isn't ashamed to call us brethren. That doesn't mean that when we are having a publicly bad day that He changes His mind and no longer calls us brethren, but whether we are having a good or bad day He's not ashamed to call us brethren. This is stunning news. He loves us, and He loves representing us before the Father.

Jesus' Earthly Ministry as an Advocate

For us to see Jesus' earthly ministry as an Advocate I want to use a powerful story from **John chapter 8**. In this story Jesus steps into the midst of a flash-mob filled with hate and ready to stone a young woman who was caught in the very act of adultery. This story perfectly illustrates Jesus' passion to represent us before the Father.

The story takes place in **John 8:3-11** and goes like this, *"Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act. Now, Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do you say'...So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, 'He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first'...Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, 'Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said to her, 'Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more'..."*

It's through this story that we see this weak, broken and fragile young lady is cared for by the Great Advocate of the human race, Jesus Christ. In this story I see three main things taking place that help connect us with Jesus the Advocate. Firstly, religious people struggle to handle the sin of others in compassionate ways and often lack a resolution other than punishment (**John 8:3-7**). It was here that this young lady is dragged out into the middle of the street and thrown at the feet of a group of religious male leaders of her day. She's humiliated to begin with, totally exposed and confronted with death. According to the Law of Moses she deserved death and that's what these religious leaders were planning to do.

If you have ever been abused, mistreated or rejected at the hands of Christians, I apologize and if it was me, I really apologize. Christians often misrepresent Jesus in ways that stain the image of Christ publically. The Church and Christians specifically are guilty of mishandling both our own personal sin and the sin of others. The reason for this is because we have sinners handling the sin of other sinners. Do you see the problem? Some people have mishandled the sin of others in purposefully hurtful ways, but most of the time it's an accident and not on purpose. But the most beautiful thing about all this is Jesus always has a plan to both deal with sin and to love broken people. Jesus as our Advocate always has a plan and always walks through the process with more than punishment, but with restoration.

Secondly, there's no crowd/situation too big for Jesus the Advocate (**John 8:8-10**). Jesus the Advocate isn't afraid to step into any situation. He's not intimidated by any sin, situation or surrounding. He loves to get into the middle of our world. Often times, just like the young lady it's not until later that we realize Jesus is already standing in front of us reaching out to us. This lady that was caught in the middle of her sin was thrown at Jesus' feet. After Jesus refutes these religious leaders, they all begin to walk away one by one until nobody is left with the lady except Jesus. And it's here that Jesus asks her if there is anyone who accuses her.

At this point the lady is realizing that Jesus just took a huge blow on her behalf. He's doing what He does, being an Advocate, pleading the cause of others. What is also true is this stunt that Jesus pulled in challenging these religious leaders was surely part of the case that was built against Him, which led to His death. This didn't make these religious leaders convert and become Christ followers, but rather it infuriated them and emboldened them against Jesus. Jesus doesn't mind. Jesus is going to later show us through His death on the Cross that He is willing to lay down His life for His friends. What an Advocate. It's important that you and I allow Jesus into our worlds, to help fight for us and defend our cause before God.

And thirdly, *Jesus the Advocate* loves us by always telling us the truth (**John 8:11**). Jesus first treats this young, broken lady, as the great Bridegroom, by giving her love and hope that is much needed. He first tells her *"...neither do I condemn you.."* He first affirms her and lets her know that He isn't condemning her. He's not out for her destruction but for her greatness. But Jesus doesn't end there. Most of our teaching in the Church ends right here with Jesus loving her and not condemning her. But what kind of a loving Father, or loving Savior would actually think that loving her wasn't telling her to change her lifestyle? Because Jesus so loves her, He tells her *"...but go and sin no more."* Jesus actually loves her best by telling her the truth. Because He knows all things, sees all things and has all power, He can actually tell her about her life better than any Person alive. He speaks from a place of brokenness for His creation that they would be with Him where He is, not only here in this age, but in the age to come.

Beloved, Jesus is our Advocate when we stumble, but Jesus is not our Advocate empowering us to continue in a lifestyle of sin and compromise. Many Christians struggle with seeing a God who holds us accountable for our sin, as if He doesn't mind. Jesus cares about the small sins in our lives and He requires those in relationship with Him to repent and move in a new direction, away from a sin and compromise. Being in Jesus isn't about getting as close to the fire as you can, but going the opposite direction away from the fire.

I have seen many Christians on *Facebook* and other social media outlets, talking about their lives of compromise and immorality and excusing all of it because they are Christians and they love God. They say things like, *I stumble; I struggle; don't judge me; you're not God*. In Christ you can't have your cake and eat it too. If you don't want to be thrown into the middle of a group of religious men, humiliated and totally abased, then don't sleep with others outside the context of your marriage. This is what Jesus was saying to the women. He was telling her, *You don't have to live like this. Change your lifestyle, your friends, and make better decisions so that you don't end up in this place again*. Jesus loves her best by telling her the truth about her life and the decisions she was making.

As I close this chapter, if you're in Christ, in relationship with Jesus and you are struggling with sin, but declaring war over it and working to become free from it, though you still struggle with it, you are not in danger. But if you are in Christ and you're deliberately sinning and working to use the grace of God and the mercy of God as a crutch to lean on when you willfully sin, **you're in danger**. Because God hasn't

judged your life as of yet isn't because He doesn't mind what you're doing, it's because He's patient. But don't take His patience as His approval because His patience and His approval are not the same thing. Regardless of whoever tells you otherwise, God is never approving of your sin and your compromise. He is militant, loving, but militant in His commitment to help you become free from your sin. He told the Church in **Revelation 2:12-17** that if they didn't repent and fight their own sin through the power of the Holy Spirit, that He would come and fight against them with the sword of His mouth. Jesus loves being our Advocate, but He does that *as* we become honest with our sin. Take time right now to repent over any un-confessed sin, and make diligent plans to forsake your sin and start in a new direction.

Session Four

“Jesus The Deliverer”

Jesus The Deliverer.

I) Introduction

- A) I personally value “the Revelation of Jesus Christ.” This means that we don’t just value one facet of Him (love) but we value all facets of Him (Bridegroom, King and Judge). Paul said in **Acts 20:27** *“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”* As a the people of God our passion is to love the whole counsel of God.
- B) In our current series I have covered “Jesus The Bridegroom” “Jesus The Healer” and “Jesus The Advocate.” In this session I am going to cover a difficult but beautiful facet of Jesus called “Jesus The Deliverer.” Due to time, I am forced to paint with a broad brush stroke.

II) What Is A Deliverer?

- A) The book of Exodus tells the story of a young Hebrew man who was spared from death, raised in Pharaoh’s home, visited by God and empowered to deliver the Children of Israel from fierce oppression. Moses is affectionately referred to throughout Church history as the deliverer.
- B) The word deliverer is a noun and for us it speaks of a Person (Jesus Christ) who delivers others. It means to set free, or to take people from one place to another.
- C) Moses’ life was pointing to the reality that there was coming a better Deliverer than him, who would once and for all deliver the people of God and put an end to wickedness. Peter said in **Acts 3:22** *“For Moses truly said to the fathers, The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.”*
 - 1) **Romans 11:26** *“...the Deliverer will come out of Zion; He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them...”*

III) Why Do We Still Need A Deliverer?

- A) There are five major world views. **1) Cyclic**—history repeats itself. **2) Rhythmic**—Life alternates between good and bad, but who knows how it will end. **3) Optimistic**—Life’s getting better, like an ascending elevator. **4) Pessimistic**—Life’s getting worse, like a descending elevator. **5) Apocalyptic**—The world will get steadily worse, then sudden better than it’s ever been and it will stay that way forever.
- B) It’s a false assumption to say ‘the greatest hour of the Church is yet ahead’ if you don’t also include ‘the darkest hour of the Church is yet ahead.’ It’s not one or the other, but both.
 - 1) **Matthew 13:30,37-41** *“He answered and said to them: He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age”.*

- C) At the end of this age, both sin (tares) and righteousness (wheat) will become fully ripe. It's the greatest hour of the Church and the darkest hour of human history.
- D) The end of this age closes with two houses of prayer colliding on a world stage. It's the conflict of a harlot and a bride and to whom they will give their allegiance, the devil, or Jesus (**Rev. 17; 18; 19; 22:17**).
- E) The Bible tells us in **Revelation 17** that the harlot will become drunk with the blood of the saints as this counterfeit religion is fueled by the martyrs of Jesus. It's in this hour, though the Church will be operating in power and glory that she will also lay her life down in martyrdom.
- F) It's because of love, the prayers of the saints and the blood of the martyrs that Jesus will intervene in human history and finally break the power of the anti-Christ and his world-wide economic/political government (**Rev. 1:5; 5:8-10; 6:9-11**). Jesus will answer the crisis!
- G) The hour that is yet ahead of human history requires God Himself to step onto the scene as the great Deliverer marching through the land destroying His enemies and rescuing His bride.

IV) How Will Jesus Deliver Those Who Love Him?

- A) Prior to Jesus' physical return to the earth, and His catching away of the saints, He is going to shake everything that can be shaken and break everything that can be broken (**Haggai 2:6-7; Hebrews 12:25-29**).
- B) The book of Revelation unfolds Jesus' battle plan to take over all the physical governments of the earth (**Revelation 5; 11**). Jesus will use a series of 21 consecutive judgments to land the final blow to the devil and his system which is being held responsible for the shedding of blood throughout world history (**Rev. 16:4-6**).
- C) After the fullness of His judgments are poured out Jesus Himself, as a Physical Man will step back on to this physical planet and slay His enemies with the sword of His mouth (**Revelation 19**).
- D) As the Great Deliverer, Jesus will be covered with the physical blood of His enemies as He slays those that have taken the mark of the beast and pledged their allegiance to the devil (**Isaiah 63:1-6; Rev. 19:13**).
- 1) **Revelation 19:12-13** *"...He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God."*
- E) Beloved, Jesus isn't hiding what He is doing so that people don't see Him. His garments are baptized in the blood of His enemies. He's doing this in public declaring He's not ashamed about this facet of His personality.
- 1) **Revelation 16:5-6; Revelation 19:1-2** *"And I heard the angel of the water saying; You are righteous O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due...After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God. For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the*

great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

- 2) Jesus will end the reign of the anti-Christ and the false prophet and physically destroy those that have taken the mark (**Rev. 19**). Then the devil will be thrown into the lake of fire and Jesus will usher in the Kingdom of God as He goes to work rebuilding the nations of the earth over a 1,000 year period in partnership with the redeemed throughout world history (**Rev. 20**).

Session Four Extra Reading

The purpose of this series and these various chapters is for you to begin to see that Jesus is far bigger, far more creative, and far more exhilarating than you ever imagined. It seems that the more I grow in the knowledge of God, the more I realize I hardly even know Him. It's hard for our minds to fathom that we will be captivated at the heart level by a Man, for eternity, in the age to come. Jesus Himself, without any other substitutes will captivate the heart of the redeemed throughout world history for all of eternity. My finite mind struggles to comprehend such a glorious reality, but this is exactly what will take place in the New Jerusalem: Jesus in His many facets electrifying the human heart.

In this chapter I am going to cover the facet of Jesus that the Bible calls, *Jesus the Deliverer*. Even though it's not a good thing to assume, I am going to do it anyway. It's my personal belief that most of you reading this, will be hearing about this facet of Jesus for the first time. Now that may not be true, but I am making a somewhat educated assumption (is there such a thing?). The reason why my assumption is educated is because I have been in many Church services over the years, including conferences, Bible studies, small groups and Christian college-style courses, yet I never heard about this facet of Jesus. Though this isn't incredibly shocking, what is rather shocking is that this facet of Jesus is clearly and plainly written into the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. It's through the lens of *Jesus the Deliverer* that we begin to understand the broader scope of what Jesus' intentions are for the human race, the planet and eternity. In this chapter I am going to cover what is a deliverer, why we still need a deliverer, and how Jesus is going to deliver those that love Him. There might be parts of this chapter that are hard to read as you work to reconcile the Jesus of the manger with the Jesus of physical, real deliverance. This facet, though difficult, is truly one of the most glorious facets of the God Man Jesus Christ.

What Is A Deliverer?

The second book of the Bible, Exodus tells the story of a young Hebrew boy that was spared from death, raised in Pharaoh's home, visited by God and empowered to deliver the children of Israel from fierce oppression. Moses is affectionately referred to throughout Church history as *the deliverer*. Moses was a man who struggled with his own confidence and personal struggles, but pressed on through much hardship to enter into the destiny for which God had anointed Him: deliverance. Moses is a well respected man throughout the Bible, as his story and what God did through him in delivering the children of Israel has been something many have grabbed onto to take them through a difficult time.

The word *deliverer* is a noun, and for this chapter it speaks of a Man (Jesus Christ) who delivers others. The word actually means *to set free or to take people from one place to another*. Jesus is the one who sets His people free and though it's mainly spiritual for us in this age, it won't always be spiritual deliverance that He gives us. Moses' life was actually foreshadowing a better Deliverer who would come after him. Peter in the book of Acts reminds us of this reality in **Acts 3:22** when he says "For Moses truly said to the fathers, the Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you."

It's been really fun to get a rise out of people occasionally when I tell them that Jesus was a Prophet. Most people get really excited and declare *He's not a prophet, He's God*. To which I say, *Of course He's not only a Prophet, He's also God but that doesn't mean He's not also a prophet*. It really perplexes people to think of Jesus as a Prophet, but this is exactly what Moses said would happen after him. Paul

in **Romans 11:26** testifies to the reality that Jesus is a Deliverer by saying *“...the Deliverer will come out of Zion; He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them...”* It’s important that we understand that Jesus is a Deliverer and that He doesn’t only wish to bring spiritual deliverance but also physical, literal deliverance.

Why Do We Still Need A Deliverer?

When I start talking about physical deliverance many people ask the question, *Why do we still need a Deliverer to come? If Jesus has already come and given us the Holy Spirit why do we still need a Deliverer to come?* I have noticed through my own personal life and the lives of those that God has asked me to serve, that we often disconnect ourselves from the end of the story right in the middle of the story. When we begin to understand what the final hour of human history will look like it gives us a far better understanding of what the global climate will look like and what will be required of God’s people to make it through that hour, not only surviving but thriving.

When we look at both history and the future, there are 5 major worldviews or outlooks that we can use. The first one is called Cyclic. The Cyclic view of life sees things as happening in a cycle, meaning that history repeats itself. What once was will once be again. The second one is called Rhythmic. The rhythmic worldview sees things as going up and down, but where it will stop nobody knows. Life might end on a good note, or on a bad note, nobody really knows.

The third worldview is something called an Optimistic outlook. The optimistic outlook sees life as getting better and better much like an ascending elevator. At the start of the twentieth century much of people’s outlook was that of optimism. The fourth worldview is called a Pessimistic outlook. The pessimist sees things in life getting worse, much like an elevator that descending with no stop in sight. At the close of the twentieth century most people’s outlook was that of a pessimist. It was hard to look through a natural lens and have much hope for things to get better. The fifth and final worldview is something called an Apocalyptic outlook. The apocalyptic worldview sees life in this age as steadily getting worse and then suddenly getting better than it’s ever been, staying that way forever. This worldview is a Biblical world view. When looking through the lens of the Bible for a projected global outlook, it’s a mixture of really bad, really good, and eternally good. It’s going to get worse before it gets better, but after it gets better it will be much better than it’s ever been.

For much of my time within the Church I have heard a lot about the Church’s greatest hour. I have heard much about this currently being the Church’s greatest hour to shine in the midst of a dark and crooked generation. But what I haven’t heard much of is the reality that this *greatest* hour, Biblically, will also be coupled with the darkest hour of human history. It’s a false assumption to only say that the Church’s greatest hour is yet ahead without also saying that the Church’s darkest hour is also yet ahead.

Jesus told a powerful parable as it relates to the very reality of both a great and really dark hour being yet ahead of the Church. In **Matthew 13:30** Jesus says this about the final hour of His return, *“let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, first gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into My barn.”* What Jesus means by *let both* is that both the tares and the wheat grow together. Jesus continues in Matthew **13:37-40** by saying *“He answered and said to them; He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the Kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of this age, and the reapers are the*

angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age."

Jesus first tells the story of the tares and the wheat growing together until the harvest, but then continues by making it clear that this parable will actually become a reality when He returns. That reality is that sin (tares) are going to increase until they have become fully ripe, along with righteousness (wheat). Jesus says that both sin and righteousness are going to grow side by side to heights that the earth has never seen.

At the end of this age, prior to Jesus' physical return to planet Earth, there will be a collision of two houses of prayer on a world stage. It will be the dueling houses of prayer that are both working to garner the allegiance of the human heart to one or the other. The devil will be working through his own house of prayer called the harlot Babylon. And Jesus will be working through His house of prayer called the prophetic Church. The battle that these two houses of prayer are going to be rumbling over is the affection of the human heart. The devil will be working to steal from Jesus the reward of His suffering and the Holy Spirit will be working His people to have them put their trust in Jesus. This collision will be on a scale the earth has never seen, nor will it ever see again (**Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1**). This battle is between two figures that are represented as women, a harlot and a pure bride.

The Bible tells us in **Revelation 17:6** that the harlot will become drunk with the blood of the saints, the martyrs of Jesus. This counterfeit world economic, political and religious movement will be fueled with the martyrs of Jesus. It's in this hour that though the Church will be operating in power and glory beyond the book of Acts that she will also lay her down in martyrdom. It's important that we don't see a defeated Church at the end of this age, but rather a victorious overcoming Church even though she will die through martyrdom. According to the Bible, martyrdom isn't a sign of defeat but of victory. There is a special place in the heart of God for those that love Him unto physical death.

It will be for the sake of love, the prayers of the saints and the blood of the martyrs that Jesus will intervene in human history and finally break the power of the anti-Christ and his world-wide economic/political government (Rev. 1:5; 5:8-10; 6:9-11). Beloved, Jesus is going to answer the coming crisis in ways that we haven't even dreamed. The ace that's up God's sleeve for the redemption of the world is far larger than anything Hollywood could conceive. But you must understand Jesus isn't returning in the midst of tranquility but great global turmoil.

The hour that is yet ahead in human history requires God Himself to step onto the scene as the great Deliverer marching through the land, destroying His enemies and rescuing His bride. What do you think is the substance of every fairytale/hero story throughout world history? The Bible. Jesus is the greater Moses and He's coming to establish His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, but His return will occur in the midst of global upheaval and great tribulation.

How Will Jesus Deliver Those Who Love Him

Prior to Jesus' physical return to the earth and His catching away of the saints, He has promised to shake everything that can be shaken and to break everything that can be broken (**Haggai 2:6-7; Hebrews 12:25-29**). This is something that might have happened in part, in the history past, but it is something that is sure to happen again on a global scale. In the passage from **Hebrews**, He tells us that this time when He shakes everything, He's not only going to shake the earth but also the heavens. What this fully means, I do not know, but at the least it's a very dark season which is yet ahead.

In **Revelation 5** we see Jesus approaching the Father as the only one found worthy (qualified) to take the scroll from the Father. It's clear that this scroll is the Psalm 2 battle plan that Jesus is going to use to lay claim to His inheritance. After He has taken the scroll from the Father the storyline of His hostile takeover to receive the inheritance of the nations ensues. Jesus will use a series of 21 consecutive judgments to land the final death blow to the anti-Christ and the false prophet as this system is actually going to be held responsible for the shedding of blood throughout world history (**Revelation 16:4-6**).

After Jesus has poured out the fullness of His wrath on both the harlot Babylon and the anti-Christ's empire He will step onto the planet and begin slaying His enemies with the sword which proceeds from His mouth (**Revelation 19**). It's hard to believe and to wrap our heads around the concept that Jesus, that sweet little Baby in the manger, is full grown and fully alive at the heart level with vengeance in His eyes. He's a jealous Bridegroom. And this all-consuming fire will actually be covered in the blood of His enemies as He kills those that have pledged their allegiance to the anti-Christ.

In **Revelation 19:12-13** we get insight into what this will look like. It's here that John writes *"His eyes were like a flame of fire and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew but Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God."* Now, some commentators want to make this blood that's on Jesus' robe have its connection back to Calvary. But why would the spotless Lamb, the only Man who knew no sins, be covered in His own redemptive blood? The answer is: He wouldn't. This blood is not Jesus' but rather His enemies. It's important that we see that what Jesus is doing isn't being done in a backroom somewhere off the beaten path but in public view for all to see. Jesus has a name written on Him that nobody knows but Himself. This name will give Him the confidence to judge His enemies and slay them with the sword that comes from His mouth. Nobody will challenge Him for what He has or hasn't done. He will stride through the land in the greatness of His strength taking over the nations of the earth. Jesus isn't ashamed of this facet of His personality and neither should we. In both **Revelation 16:5-6** and **Revelation 19:1-2** the angels and the saints in heaven are pictured as celebrating His judgments. They even praise Him for turning the waters on earth to blood because of the blood of His martyrs that's been shed.

Jesus will then end the reign of the anti-Christ and the false prophet by throwing them into the lake of fire, never to reenter the scene again (**Revelation 19**). Then the devil will be bound for a 1,000 literal years while Christ rules and reigns with His resurrected on this physical earth. It's during this 1,000 years that Christ will bring heaven and earth together in Himself and rebuild the cities within the nations that have been decimated by the judgments of God, the rage of satan, the sin of man and the groan of creation (**Ephesians 1:9-10; Revelation 20**).

Beloved, our future is great but it's also filled with great difficulty. It's important to know that in the coming years, as the oppression of the end time Pharaoh increases, that the Church will turn our prayers to the Great Deliverer asking Him to split the skies and come for us (**Revelation 22:17**). Jesus is the greater Moses and He is coming to set us free not only spiritually, but also physically. The goal of this chapter and this entire series is to awaken you to three things, that you might ask the questions: 1) *Who is this Man?* 2) *What does that final hour look like?* 3) *How can I become prepared and equipped?* Jesus will help us, but we must ask Him to reveal Himself to us so that we might see Him rightly, not only through one facet, but through the many facets of Christ Jesus.