

WANT JESUS TO STAY LONGER?

Luke 4:42; Matthew 14:13; Mark 1:35

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus was received in various ways. Some got together and asked Him to leave. Some got together and tried to throw Him off a cliff. Some, however, followed Him everywhere He went and whenever Jesus went away from them, they searched and searched until they found Him again.

Jesus has said He would be with those who gathered in His name, even if just two or three. Every Christian knows that Jesus has visited him/her at one time or other and in worship services everyone often feels His invisible presence, then in private prayer time, He is there also. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Jesus stayed with us longer?

I. HOW DO WE GET JESUS TO STAY LONGER?

1. We must first of all make Him feel welcome.
 - If we want a friend of ours to stay with as long as possible, we try to make him/her feel comfortable and pleasant.
 - What would make Jesus uncomfortable being around us? SIN! Jesus hates sin, therefore one of the things we need to do is get rid/renounce sin in our lives.
 - We must show Him that we WANT Him to stay and greatly desire His presence.
 - Nobody wants to stay around where he/she is not wanted, neither does Jesus.
 - Jesus remarked once that anybody that loves his/her father, mother, son or daughter more than Him is not worthy to have Him around.
 - If Jesus sees anything in our lives that we prefer over Him, that is an idol to Him and He is not going to stay around where someone puts an idol above Him.
 - We need to be like Jacob that night when he said, "I'll not let you go until you bless me..."
 - Jesus wants to feel welcome before He will stay very long.
2. We must get rid of our sins - repent.
 - Jesus is near to those who have broken hearts and contrite spirits.
 - Sin is hated by Jesus and He will not be around it or those who entertain it.
 - Not only will Jesus not be around those with sin in their lives, but He will bring judgment on them.
3. We must show an attitude of humility and unworthiness.
 - We must never grow proud of what Jesus does for us, thinking that He blesses us more than others causing us to look down on others who don't seem to be as blessed as we are.
 - Jesus gives grace to the humble, but not to those who act proud.
4. We must give Him sufficient reasons for staying.
 - Why should Jesus stay longer? Ever think about that?
 - What about glorifying God, the Father? Or honoring His great Name? Or helping His people? Or His presence has great effects on others around?
 - Give Jesus good reasons that He can accept for staying longer with you.

5. We must give Him opportunities to work through us doing what He likes to do.
 - Jesus loves to do good. "It's more blessed to give than receive" He taught.
 - Let Jesus use us to minister to children, to senior adults, to the sick, to the unsaved, to the dying, to the sad, to the hopeless.
 - Be around people like this and Jesus will not leave.

II. WHY SHOULD WE WANT JESUS TO STAY LONGER?

1. To not want Jesus to stay longer will offend and grieve Him greatly.
 - Everybody wants to be appreciated, wanted, needed, thanked, and loved. Jesus is no different.
 - Jesus is the supreme example of all the ways and reasons we should act and treat others and look at what it cost Him to do so.
 - Consider what Jesus has done for us - shall we, His disciples, His family, treat Him with neglect?
 - "Will we, also go away...?"
2. His presence always brings great blessings.
 - Think about who Jesus is. What He has. What He does. What He can do. How wise He is.
 - How powerful He is. Where He is.
 - His gracious presence brings life, light, joy, salvation. It is all of heaven poured down upon us, fills our hearts with joy and peace, our minds with knowledge, our life with praise and thanksgiving.
 - His presence here with us causes joy in Heaven as the angels rejoice for wherever Jesus is souls are saved.
3. When Jesus is gone, bad things happen to His people, His Church.
 - Jesus is the HEAD of His Church.
 - With the head gone, the right hand knows not what the left does, the tongue speaks not clearly, there is no wisdom, no knowledge, no intelligence.
 - Members have no spiritual sense, and they wander and stumble.
 - With the head gone, the body soon weakens and becomes useless.
 - Jesus is the ONLY bond of the members. While Jesus is there, unity prevails, but when He leaves, the bond is broken and jealousies, dissensions and divisions arise and members turn against each other.
 - With the head gone, the body can receive no growth, therefore strength fades and all is suspended. When Jesus leaves the Church, growth stops and spiritual food is no longer received and the whole body declines.
 - With the head gone death happens.
 - Take Jesus away from the Church and it dies. "Without me, ye can do nothing..."
 - Without Jesus sinners stay sinners, doomed stay doomed and will stay so.
 - Ministers minister but in vain, witnesses witness, but fruitless.
 - Take the world's sun away and what would happen to the world is what happens when Jesus is gone.

4. When Jesus is gone, the wicked rejoice.
 - Unbelievers are always trying to provoke Jesus to leave wherever they are and are trying to find new ways to remove Him from every public place.
 - The conduct of the wicked, the unbelievers, the impenitent should encourage us to try all the harder to get Jesus to stay longer and do all we possibly can to do so.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus has been with us before for He has done great things among us and hopefully He is still with us to some extent/degree.
2. Let each of us do our best to remove from our hearts, lives, homes, Churches, everything/anything that may cause Jesus to leave.
3. We live in a day of grace and bounty and Jesus is still at work in our world. Let us not do anything that might cause Jesus to leave.
4. To any who are not a part of Jesus' family, His Church, still an unbeliever, you do not realize Jesus' presence, nor do you feel a need to do so.
 - You don't accept His invitations, you do not see what excites the countless numbers of those who call themselves Christians or why they are so devoted to this one called Jesus.
 - You cannot see nor feel what the Christian does and it is not important to you to do so and perhaps even think that all Christians are deceived and there is no such thing as heaven hell and salvation.
 - Either you begin to want to know for sure, want to know more about this Jesus or you will continue on the way your are going and will take your place eventually with all the unclean, abominable and wicked in the lake that burns with fire.
5. Christians, Jesus wants to stay longer. Do you want Him to? Then do what it takes!