# **Ponder Jesus**

Reflections,
prayers,
scripture, and
recorded new hymns
for
public worship and
personal devotions

from the series:

Fresh Views of Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

LNWhymns.COM

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# **Scriptures on Knowing Jesus**

(NIV)

#### Jeremiah 9:23-24

This is what the Lord says:

"Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me.

#### John 17:3

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

#### **Ephesians 1:15-17**

Ever since I heard about
your faith in the Lord Jesus and
your love for all God's people,
I have not stopped giving thanks for you,
remembering you in my prayers.
I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the glorious Father,
may give you the Spirit of
wisdom and
revelation,
so that you may know him better.

#### Philippians 3:8-10

I consider everything a loss
because of the surpassing worth of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,
for whose sake I have lost all things.
I consider them garbage,
that I may gain Christ
and be found in him,

not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,
but that which is through faith in Christ—
the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

I want to know Christ—
yes, to know
the power of his resurrection and
participation in his sufferings,
becoming like him in his death.

#### 2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

## **Knowing Jesus Better**

If being a Christian is knowing You, Jesus, then growing spiritually is knowing You better.

I don't want to just know *about* You, my Lord. I want to know *You*.
I want to know You as You really are – as You really are right now, here with me.

Saul turned from killing Christians
to vigorously arguing for You in just a few days (Acts 9:1-22).
The difference wasn't additional study.
The difference was meeting You.
He saw You as You are,
and it changed him radically, forever.

Jesus, my Lord God, I want to know You.

Father,
I come to You this morning
through Your Word,
eager to know You better and
hungry for
the mind and Spirit of Christ.

Hymn recording: I Want to Know You

# I Want to Know You

Philippians 3:7-14



WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible

TENNYSON 4.6.4.6.11.5.5.

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## **Hebrews 12:1-3**

(NASB)

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus,

the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him

endured the cross, despising the shame, and

has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

## **Today's Focus**

Today, fix your eyes on Jesus.

His beautiful life is your example of faith in the Father, of deep, unshakable joy, of generous, self-giving love.

His death is your deliverance from the strangle-hold of sin and from slavery to your own weakness.

His resurrected life is your strength for today and your destiny for all eternity.

Today, fix your eyes on Jesus.

Your most important, most far-reaching legacy will be your living testimony to Jesus Christ.

Hymn recording: We Fix Our Eyes on Jesus Christ

# We Fix Our Eyes on Jesus Christ



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MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible
C.M.D.

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## Colossians 2:9-10

(NASB)

In [Jesus Christ] all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.

### Look to the Horizon

As you trust yourself to God, what is your destiny? When His purpose is complete, who will you be?

Look to the man Jesus Christ.

See His moment-by-moment relationship with the Father.

See His calm sufficiency in every situation.

See His complete dependence on the Father,

His full submission,

His calm confidence,

His unbroken peace.

See His selfless love toward

everyone around Him,

both friends and persecutors.

See the Father's goodness and greatness

radiating from Him.

See Jesus Christ.

He is the Father's

desire for you and

His promise to you.

He is the grand horizon toward which our race is moving.

In heaven we will
know and experience
what has always been true:
the only Light,
the only Life,
the only joy is
Him.

Hymn recording: Christ Is Our Horizon

# **Christ Is Our Horizon**

TUNE: Like a River Glorious (WYE VALLEY, abridged)



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WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: James Mountain

CCLI Song # 4070519. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

WYE VALLEY (abridged)

6.5.6.5.D.

## **Scriptures on Christ Helping Us Pray**

(NASB)

#### **Matthew 6:5-13**

"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

"Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day [b]our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."]

#### Romans 8:26-27

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

## **Christ Helps Me Pray**

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27, NASB)

Father, the more I talk to You,
the more I realize that
 I don't know how to talk to You.
I want to better know how to pray.
I look to Your Son Jesus as my example, and
I hear such beautiful, personal faith in His prayers, such trust,
 submission, and
 worship.
But His only prayers I see recorded in the gospels are
 a few prayed on special occasions,
 intentionally formed for His disciples to hear.
How did He speak to You when
 You and He were alone?
On those occasions when He prayed all night,

But Father, You show me that Jesus helps our prayers in far greater ways than this.

what did He say?

What did You talk about?

When His disciples asked Him how to pray,
He gave a short prayer that models how we are to speak to You.
Through that prayer, He taught us to speak to You
as a child speaking to his or her Father,
simply,
honestly,
trustingly,
with our hearts turned to You.

But what's more, Jesus has given us His own Spirit.
This Spirit leads us to You and
binds us to You,
as Father and child.
His new life cries out to You from within us,

```
"Daddy!
Father!"
```

Your Son Jesus helps us pray,

not by leaving us His prayers written on a page, but by breathing His own Spirit within us.

This Spirit helps us pray

when we don't know how.

He takes our

simple,

childish,

fumbling prayers

and speaks directly to You on our behalf

as only He can.

So Father, I come to You as Your Son taught us.

I come as a child,

pretending to be nothing else.

I come with no hiding, with my

weaknesses,

failures, and

imperfect self in full view.

I come in the Spirit of Christ, relying on Him to

shape my heart,

form my words, and

graciously speak for me.

Father, I come to You in Jesus Christ,

trusting in Him alone.

Hymn recording: Father, Father

# Father, Father

Matthew 6



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## Scriptures on Jesus and Justice

(NASB)

Psalm 72:1-4, 12-14

Give the king Your judgments, O God,
And Your righteousness to the king's son.
May he judge Your people with righteousness
And Your afflicted with justice.
Let the mountains bring peace to the people,
And the hills, in righteousness.
May he vindicate the afflicted of the people,
Save the children of the needy
And crush the oppressor.

For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help,
The afflicted also, and him who has no helper.
He will have compassion on the poor and needy,
And the lives of the needy he will save.
He will rescue their life from oppression and violence,
And their blood will be precious in his sight;

#### Isaiah 11:2-5

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
And He will delight in the fear of the Lord,
And He will not judge by what His eyes see,
Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;
But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.
Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins,
And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

#### Isaiah 42:1-4

"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry out or raise His voice,
Nor make His voice heard in the street.
A bruised reed He will not break
And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish;
He will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not be disheartened or crushed
Until He has established justice in the earth;
And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

### **Jesus Incarnates Justice**

Remember that justice is not living by a set of rules that codify fairness. God is just, and we are just when we are like Him. We are just as we think like Him, act like Him, and love like Him.

God is justice, and Jesus came showing us exactly what God is like.

[Jesus] is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature. (Hebrews 1:3, NASB)

He is the image of the invisible God. (Colossians 1:15, NASB)

God is justice, and Jesus came *making* us exactly like Him. God is grace, which is unfailing love, and God is truth, which is absolute dependability. The grace and truth that are inherent in God's nature become part of our new nature in Christ.

Of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. (John 1:16-17, NASB)

Jesus' own Spirit is growing this likeness within our very beings.

We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18, NASB)

God has promised to finish this likeness, making us beautiful and perfect in His image:

He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6, NASB)

We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. (1 John 3:2, NASB)

All God's justice, all His rightness is complete in Jesus Christ, and we are complete and right in Him.

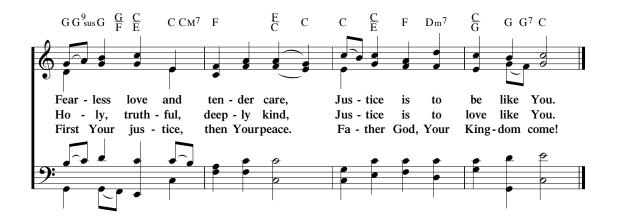
**Hymn recording: Justice Hymn** 

# Justice Hymn

TUNE: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (EASTER HYMN, alt.) Deuteronomy 32:3-4; Psalm 145; Isaiah 1:17; 11:1-9; Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8; Matthew 6:9-10; Mark 13:32-37; Romans 13:8-10



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Lyra Davidica (1708) and Ken Bible
EASTER HYMN 2
7.7.7.D.



### **Matthew 8:5-13**

(NASB)

When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented."

Jesus said to him,
"I will come and heal him."

But the centurion said,

"Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come! ' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."

Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you,

I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.
I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

And Jesus said to the centurion,

"Go; it shall be done for you as

"Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very moment.

## **Surprising Examples**

Read Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 17:11-19

Jesus was a wise teacher. He didn't just pour out information. His disciples didn't spend endless hours furiously taking notes and studying for exams.

He taught in a real-life setting. He told stories pulled straight out of common, everyday situations. He gave object lessons. He taught by example.

But He didn't just teach by His own example. He took opportunities to point out examples they encountered in their travels. Sometimes these examples were totally unexpected.

One example was a Roman centurion who came to Jesus and asked Him to heal a valued servant. Jesus offered to come and heal the man. Surprisingly, the centurion refused:

"Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." (Matthew 8:8-9, NASB)

This Gentile soldier may have had little or no knowledge about the Scriptures, but he clearly grasped two truths:

- He himself was unworthy of Jesus.
- Jesus had divine authority. He didn't have to come to his home to heal the centurion's servant. All He had to do was speak the word right where He was, and the servant would be healed.

This non-Jew was a living example of praying humbly, in simple faith.

Another foreigner supplied a lesson in thanksgiving. Jesus was passing through a Samaritan village when ten lepers shouted to Him, begging for healing. Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priest. In the Old Testament, if a leper thought his leprosy was gone, he was to show himself to a priest, who could declare him "clean." That's why Jesus told the ten to show themselves to a priest, even though their disease was not yet gone. They were to take a step of faith, in obedience to the law of God and the word of Jesus.

When they showed themselves to the priest, all ten were indeed healed. Nine apparently cared only about their newfound freedom from the disease. They went about their lives, never bothering to thank or acknowledge Jesus.

But one did return and fell on his face before Jesus and humbly thanked Him.

Jesus used the incident to emphasize the importance of thanksgiving. It is more than just the polite thing to do.

- When we give thanks, we put ourselves in a right relationship with God. We acknowledge that He is good, the Source of all blessing, and we are needy, completely dependent on Him.
- When we give thanks, we bring joy to ourselves and to those around us.
- When we give thanks, we please the loving heart of our Father God. We show Him that we His children are growing out of our childish self-centeredness and are beginning to see the world and ourselves in the light of all He is.

Hymn recording: We Thank You

# We Thank You



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### Mark 3:31-35

(NASB)

Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him.

A crowd was sitting around Him,

and they said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." 33 Answering them, He \*said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" 34 Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He \*said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother."

## We Are Jesus' Family

[Jesus] looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." (Mark 3:34-35, NIV)

Jesus, You look at me as Your brother.

You look around at all of us, such a motley and imperfect group, and say, "You are My mothers and brothers and sisters!"

Your Father is our Father too.
What a wonder!
We who share Your love for Him are
all members of Your family.

You think of us fondly.
You love us and feel a deep bond with us.
You accept us as we are and
enjoy our company.
You are comfortable with us and
want us to be comfortable with You too.

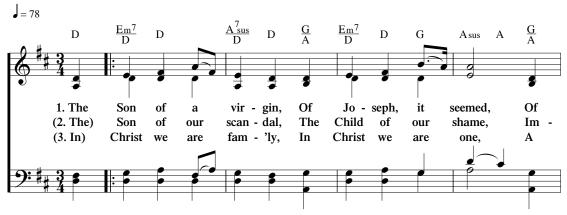
Jesus, thank You for thinking of me this way.

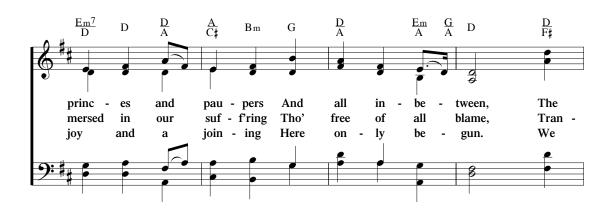
If we love our Father, we will love His children. What's the surest way to endear yourself to a parent? Help their children.

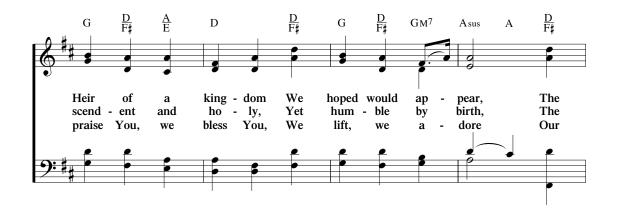
Hymn recording: Family Tree
Based on the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-17

# **Family Tree**

Matthew 1

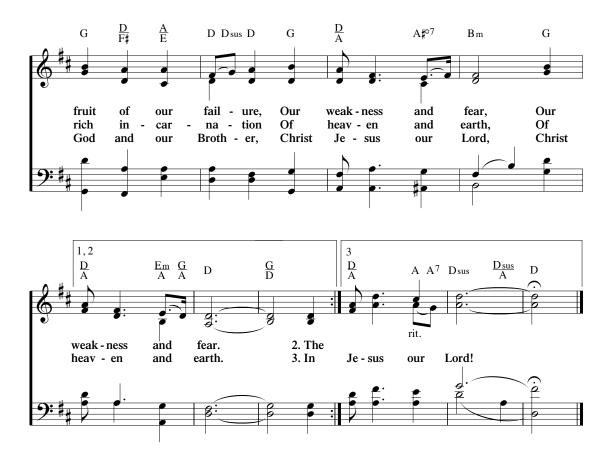






WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Scottish Carol and Ken Bible

TYLER 6.5.6.5.D.



### Luke 11:37-54

(NASB)

Now when He had spoken, a Pharisee asked Him to have lunch with him; and He went in, and reclined at the table. When the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal. But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also? But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.

"But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the chief seats in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the market places. Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it."

One of the lawyers said to Him in reply, "Teacher, when You say this, You insult us too." But He said, "Woe to you lawyers as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, while you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers. Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and it was your fathers who killed them. 48 So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs. For this reason also the wisdom of God said, 'I will send to them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and some they will persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.' Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering."

When He left there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects, plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.

### Am I Like the Pharisees?

Jesus, sometimes I'm more like the Pharisees than I like to admit.

I excuse myself and condemn others.

I major on minors and minor on majors.

I make the outside appear beautiful but don't root out the ugly self-centeredness within.

I'm passionate about the wrong things.

I love too much the respect of others.

I am insensitive to the burdens of the needy.

I live by the rules but don't live Your love.

Holy Jesus,
forgive me.
Cleanse me by Your Spirit and
form Yourself in me.

Face your God now.
Strip away all the excuses.
Abandon all your hiding places.
Step out before Him into the light.
Now is the day for forgiveness.
Now is the time for renewal.

Hymn recording: Print Your Image

# **Print Your Image**



WORDS: Ken Bible, Thomas H. Kingo, and Jens C. Aaberg MUSIC: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551, and Ken Bible; arr. by Ken Bible

PRINT YOUR IMAGE 8.7.8.7.7.7.7.

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## **Scriptures on the Humility of Jesus**

(NASB)

#### Isaiah 53:1-3

Who has believed our message?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,
And like a root out of parched ground;
He has no stately form or majesty
That we should look upon Him,
Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.
He was despised and forsaken of men,
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
And like one from whom men hide their face
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

#### Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

#### Philippians 2:5-8

Have this attitude in yourselves
which was also in Christ Jesus,
who, although He existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
a thing to be grasped,
but emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant,
and being made in the likeness of men.
Being found in appearance as a man,
He humbled Himself
by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

## Free, Fearless, and Complete

We humans spend much of our

time and

energy

trying to look as good as possible

in the eyes of other people.

Our appearance,

the way we carry ourselves,

the things we say, and

the way we say them

are often calculated to

maximize our respect in the eyes of others...

and perhaps to maximize our respect for ourselves.

When God came as a human being,

He didn't puff Himself up.

He humbled Himself.

He intentionally made Himself far less than He was.

We humans are not so confident.

We resist giving ourselves and

our resources

too completely.

Our love is limited by fear.

We fear vulnerability.

We fear giving away too much and

leaving ourselves with too little.

Almighty God has no such fear.

He has no need.

All that is flows from Him.

He is complete and

all-encompassing,

all-sufficient in Himself.

He is full and overflows with love.

Giving is His nature,

His delight.

When God came,

He gave Himself

without holding anything back.

He willingly took upon Himself

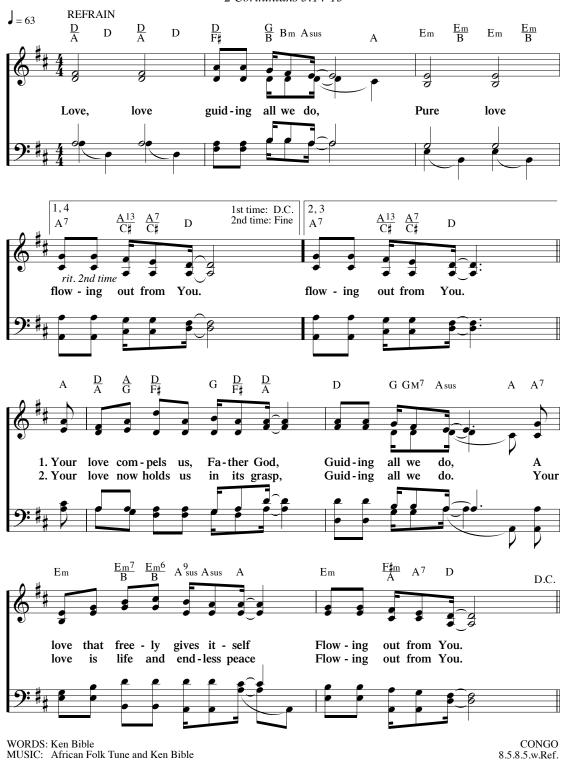
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our lowliness,
      our weakness, and
      our poverty
so that we could share
      His completeness.
He made Himself like us
      in order that we might be like Him.
Because He came,
we too can be thoroughly human, yet
      free.
      fearless, and
      complete
by trusting our almighty, all-giving God.
We can
      live and
      love
as fully as He does.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV)
```

Father,
Your Son gave up everything to
come to us:
His comfort,
His status,
His glory, and
His life.
Help me to give what little I have to
that same cause:
the salvation of our race.

Hymn recording: **Compelling Love** 

# **Compelling Love**

2 Corinthians 5:14-15



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## John 8:31-32, 36

(NASB)

"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

"If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

#### Recording of the following reading and hymn together:

**JESUS THE TRUTH Devotional Tapestry** 

#### Truth

```
Jesus said,
       "If you hold to my teaching,
       you are really my disciples.
       Then you will know the truth, and
       the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32, NIV)
The Truth—
      deep,
       unchanging,
       absolute reality.
We long to know it,
       to see it.
       to grasp and
       embrace it.
We long to live in this Truth,
       to move and breathe in harmony with it,
       to stand on it and
       rest in it
              completely,
             constantly,
             forever.
As the Son of the Father,
as the Creator and Source of all, Jesus
       speaks the Truth,
       lives the Truth, and
       is the Truth.
His Spirit within us is the Spirit of Truth.
As we live in Him and He in us,
       we are wrapped forever in the full reality of all He is.
In Him life is
       right and
       good and
       complete, and
we are free!
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**Hymn recording: I Have the Truth** 





WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

LIVING TRUTH Irregular



### Mark 8:27-38

(NASB)

Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?" They told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; but others, one of the prophets." And He continued by questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ." And He warned them to tell no one about Him.

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

#### I Want to Follow Jesus

Jesus needed His followers to understand where He was going and how He was going to get there. "Yes, I am the Messiah. But that doesn't mean success and glory are just ahead. It means I am about to sacrifice My life for the salvation of others, for people who don't understand it and don't deserve it. And if you want to be My followers, you have to deny your own interests as I have, pick up your cross, and come with Me."

Deny myself—it's a noble thought, but what does it involve? It means I have to

- renounce my own interests completely
- be totally without regard for my advantage, comfort, and convenience
- give up dependence on my own knowledge and resources and depend only on the Father
- take my life and future out of my own hands and place them totally in His.

That's easy to say but not easy to do. Life's demands continually nag at my weaknesses. Fears and comforts pull me this way and that. How can I resist self-protection and self-concern? How can I follow Jesus straight into His storm of suffering?

But then I look at Him. I see the person He was and the way He lived. I see His peace, His patience, His sufficiency in every situation. I see His deep, constant relationship with the Father. I see His fearless, powerful, never-strained love. And I want to deny myself. I want to rid myself of this perpetual burden of petty self-concern. I want to pick up my own cross and follow Him wherever He goes. I want to be like Him. I say with the Apostle Paul:

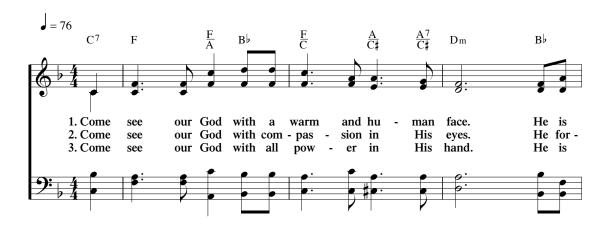
I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him...I want to know Christ...and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. (Philippians 3:8-9, 10, NIV)

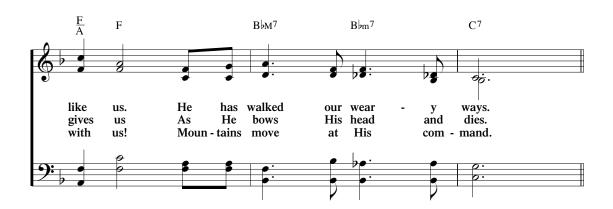
What attracts me to this life is the inherent beauty of Jesus Christ.

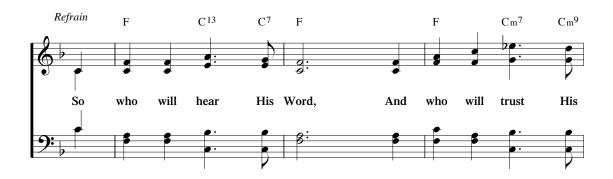
Hymn recording: Come See Our God

## Come See Our God

Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 23:34; Hebrews 2:9-18; 4:14-16





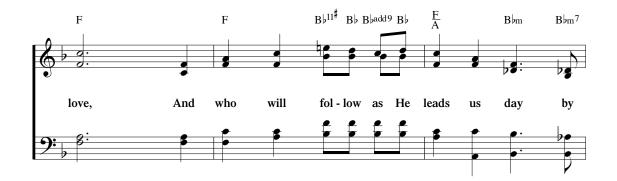


WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

TEN THOUSAND MILES Irregular

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### In the Light of the Cross

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

May it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 2:20; 6:14; NASB)

Merciful Father, flood my heart and mind every moment with the full truth about Jesus Christ:

> His life, His death, His resurrection, and the completeness of His salvation.

Let me live in the blazing light of all He is and all He has done.

**Hymn recording: In the Light of the Cross** 

# In the Light of the Cross

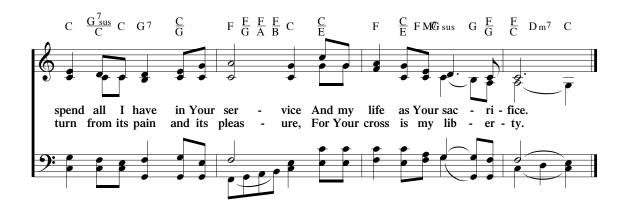
1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 8:9-13; Galatians 2:20; 6:14



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Irish Melody; arr. by Ken Bible MOURNE SHORE 10.8.10.8.8.10.10.8

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#### John 21

(NASB)

After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way. Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.

So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught." Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep.

Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." Now this He

said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!"

Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!" Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?"

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

#### Breakfast with the Lord

This is such a simple, natural scene--real people in a relaxed setting. Jesus is there on the shore, resurrected and very real. But we see no flashes of light, no walking through walls. He's just squatting on the ground, quietly cooking breakfast over an open fire. It's a modest meal, eaten with close, comfortable friends.

Jesus is present, face-to-face.

He helps with their work. It's common, daily labor. But He blesses it, and what had been frustrating is now rewarding.

He provides for their daily needs and shares average moments with them.

That's where I need Jesus in my life: across the breakfast table; on my job; helping me through the long nights of frustration; providing for the needs that keep coming day by day. His presence is the most real and meaningful to me in the daily routine.

But it's also where I hear His probing question:

Do you truly love me more than these?

And I hear echoes of His command and promise:

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things [food, clothing, life's necessities] will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

I get so preoccupied with my own concerns. I think that if this one need were met, I would be happy. But Jesus calls me to seek Him first, His kingdom and His righteousness, resting all my needs with the Father.

I long for each of my relationships to be everything I dream it should be. He calls me to simply love everyone around me, unselfishly, with practical kindness.

On the job, my concern is to achieve that one desired area of service. He calls me to glorify Him no matter where He puts me. He asks that I feed His sheep in whatever assignment I face.

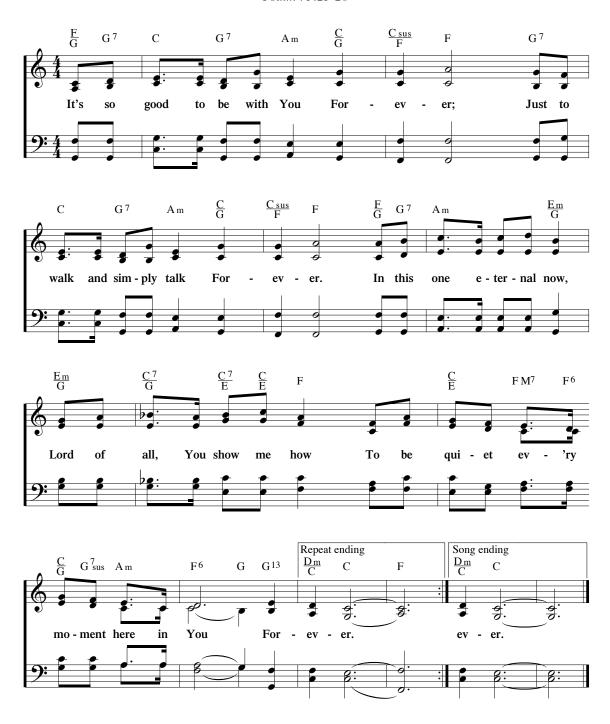
There He is, across the table. He hands me my daily provisions. I face Him as I face my day. Can I tell Him I love Him more than anything else, right here and now? That is what His eyes ask. That is what He seeks of me.

And as I spend time with Him, how can I help but say, Yes, Lord . . . I love you. (John 21:15, NIV)

Hymn recording: It's So Good to Be with You

# It's So Good to Be with You Psalm 73:23-28

J = ca. 56



WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible

PERSONAL PRESENCE 10.10.7.7.11.3.

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### Matthew 28:16-20

(NASB)

The eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.

When they saw Him,

they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,

"All authority has been given to Me

in heaven and on earth.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,

baptizing them in the name of

the Father and

the Son and

the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;

and lo, I am with you always,

even to the end of the age."

### **Discipleship**

Just before Jesus ascended back to His Father, He commissioned His eleven remaining disciples to "go...and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19, NASB). That is still our commission today, as Christ's Church and as His individual followers. What are we being commanded to do?

When Jesus began His own work here among us, one of the first things He did was to make disciples, literally "learners" or "apprentices". He approached individuals, looked them in the eye, and called them to leave their old life completely. He invited them to follow Him, learn from Him, and help Him; to make His agenda their only agenda; to give up everything for Him; to live with Him and die with Him.

This was no course in night school or part-time job. Discipleship was all-encompassing and all-consuming, 24/7. They gave up all security, comfort, and purpose outside of Jesus. They ate with Him, lodged with Him, worked with Him, walked with Him, watched Him, and listened to His words all day, every day. They were immersed in Jesus Christ and were reshaped by His life.

This is what Jesus was commissioning the eleven to do in Matthew 28: to make more such disciples for Him, to reproduce themselves. They were to baptize these disciples-in-the-making into the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit, then teach them all they themselves had learned from Christ.

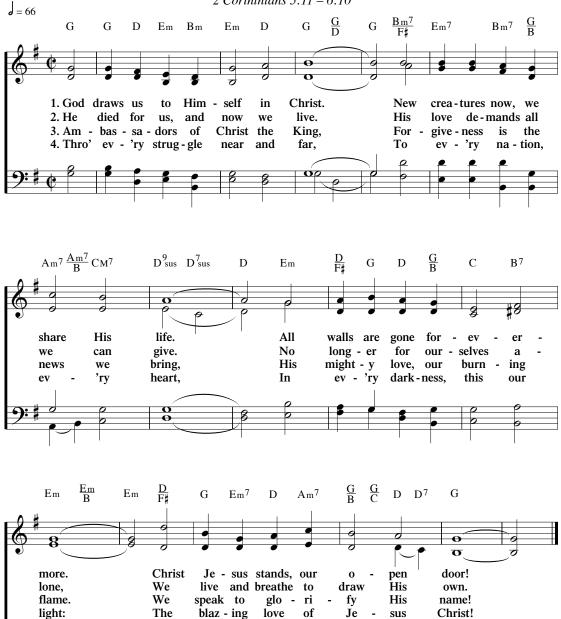
This is still the calling of Christ's disciples: to disciple others. We are to challenge them, encourage them, teach them, mentor them, and serve alongside them. We are to be instruments of the Spirit as He reshapes them into the image of Jesus. We are to nurture their personal relationship with the Father, the relationship that was Jesus' focus and confidence and constant strength.

Discipleship is still radical, all-encompassing, and all-consuming. It is living life from and through and to Jesus Christ, and helping others to do the same.

**Hymn recording: Reconciled in Christ** 

### **Reconciled in Christ**

TUNE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (OLD 100TH) 2 Corinthians 5:11 – 6:10



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois; arr. by Ken Bible

OLD 100TH L.M.