

There is a movie that came out in 2019 that is one of my all-time favorites. The movie is called "Yesterday", and although it is probably not as significant as most Oscar level movies, it is well worth your time to watch, especially if you love the music of the Beatles as much as I do. To quickly summarize, set in London, a young music teacher / singer-songwriter was about to give up on his dream of having a music career. He was riding his bicycle home at night when a glitch of some sort occurred, and the entire world lost power for about twelve seconds. Due to the blackout, the poor guy is hit by a bus and knocked unconscious. The premise of the movie is that when he wakes in the hospital, he realizes he is the only person in the world who remembers who the Beatles were, and their music. I'll leave you to watch the movie to enjoy yourself. There are many humorous moments and some neat surprises in there as well.

The idea of the world being stopped completely, for just a moment in time, made me wonder what it would be like if the same thing happened, only when the power came back on, everyone had a sincere and personal relationship with Jesus. It almost makes my head pop to think of the possibility. I don't mean everyone just being 'aware' of him, but truly knowing him. To help you consider this, I feel like I need to share what I believe it means to truly know him.

To me, to truly know Jesus is to be in love with Jesus. Not a carnal love, but a spiritual love. As a woman, imagine being loved unconditionally, just for who you are. Even with your chubs and mussed hair, when Jesus looks at you, he sees someone beautiful and worthy. So much so, that he chose to be nailed to a cross for you. When I wake in the morning and look out my window, I say "Good morning, Lord." I know he was with me as I slept, and he is there with me when I awake. He knows I need to get my coffee going, but then he waits for me to sit down and spend 'our morning time' together.

I try to read scripture every day, but sometimes I have a greater need to go to him in prayer. As a rule, I keep a prayer journal, so I write down whatever is on my heart, and I know he is listening as I write. There are other times when I need to speak out loud, and when I'm at that point, it usually ends up with me wailing in tears because the pain is too deep to be written down on a page. He never fails to be my comfort. Just as he knows me, I strive every single day to know him better, to be like him. I also fail every single day, but he gets me. Just as he gets you and loves you despite all your flaws and hidden secrets. He knows those too.

Throughout my day I am in constant communication with him. When I get that parking space that is right by the door, out loud I say, "Thank you, Lord." When someone cuts me off and I think to myself, "You idiot!", I say "Please forgive me, Father." I don't share this to boast about my piety. No... I'm simply trying to share how 'real' my Jesus is to me. He is my constant companion and my very best friend. When I'm lonely, he fills my heart. When I lash out, he is quick to forgive me, and to show me a better solution. As I raise my grandchildren, he fills me with his grace, as I make mistake after mistake. He is everything to me.

So back to wondering what the world would be like if one day we woke up and everyone 'knew' Jesus and lived by his example... Could you imagine? First, we would be free! Free! No more bondage to our past hurts or addictions, no more anger and hatred toward those who have hurt us. Perhaps the soldiers could look down at the guns in their hands and lay them down. World leaders could stop being corrupt and thirsty for power, discarding their secret agendas and plans. Perhaps they would look up from their desks and see the millions who are hungry and displaced, and take all the money they've been stockpiling, and lend aid to those in need.

And what about the children? Parents would love their children purely, fathers would stay and assume the role as head of their own household, leading the family in the ways of God. There would no longer be child abuse or trafficking. The hungry and orphaned children of the world would be fed and placed in homes where they could be safe and loved. God, bless the little children. In Luke 17:2, Jesus said, "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones." (NKJV)

Marriages would be based on honesty and purity of heart. A man would love his wife as Christ loved the church and would give his life if need be. Women would honor and respect their husbands because of their ability to cherish and love their wives. Families would be whole again. In that, children would grow with the

nurturing and love that God intended, so there would no longer be utter confusion as to who or what gender they should be. Girls would be girls and boys would be boys, just as God created them. No longer would there be a price for sexual immorality, and all people would be respected and treated as the wonderful creation they are.

Yes, I know this is a tall order. But isn't that what Christmas is all about? Making wishes? Even if we can't have what I described here, the whole point of Christmas is 'HOPE'. Jesus came to us as a baby, God in the flesh, and grew to be a young man and carried with him the message of hope. That hope was sealed on the day he was crucified on our behalf. On a smaller scale, with a sincere heart I pray that one day my grown children and grandchildren will wake up and 'know Jesus'. I don't think that's too much to ask, do you?

This is my Christmas wish. I also wish that all who read this message will be filled with the hope of Christmas and pray for God's richest blessings on you and those you love.

Blessings,

Lisa Jo

