

# Jesus In The Midst Of Us

*Sunday, November 05, 2006*

**Message Title "Jesus in the midst of us"**

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## Rev 1:9-13, 16, and 20

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for *the word of God*, and for *the testimony of Jesus Christ*.

10 I was *in the Spirit on the Lord's day*, and *heard behind me* a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and *send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia*; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12 And *I turned to see the voice that spake with me*. And *being turned, I saw* seven golden candlesticks;

13 And *in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man*, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

16 And he had *in his right hand seven stars*: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

20 The *mystery of the seven stars* which thou sawest in my right hand, and the *seven golden candlesticks*. The *seven stars are the angels* of the seven churches: and *the seven candlesticks* which thou sawest *are the seven churches*.

- The most assuring thing to know is that Jesus loves you and cares about you so much until He constant desires to dwell in your presence.
- Often, we desire for Him to come into our presence, but actually, He has given us an invitation to come into His presence.

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- We are to ascend until the presence of the Lord; come up to a place of acceptance by Him. This can be obtained by worshipping God out of a pure heart and soul.
- You are so precious and dear unto the Lord and He desires the company that can only be kept with you. Your relationship with God is peculiar to your presence and not someone else's.
- This is why Jesus states in **John 4:23** that the Father is seeking for true worshippers. True worshippers add a fragrance to the atmosphere that breeds an environment for miracles. They literally are inviting God's full manifested presence into the earth realm, resulting in healings, salvations, deliverances, and other manifestations of God's glory.
- This is an honored privilege that each saint has that we often forsake. We don't always go far enough or stay long enough before the Lord, then we get disgusted within ourselves, longing for the presence that we forsook.
- So, today, I am commissioned by God to encourage you, as well as, forewarn others of their errors. My desire today is simply that we enjoy a sustained manifestation of the glory of God that can only come from ascending the Hill of the Lord.
- In today's text, a beautiful picture is painted that has grasped my attention that I would like to enlighten you about. Jesus is in the midst of us! I am not talking figuratively, but actually; not an angel, or a vision, or a cherubim or seraphim, but, Jesus himself.
- Notice, John was in the spirit on the Lord's Day. He was caught up in worship on a Sunday while he was exiled on the isle of Patmos, a rocky deserted island; banished because of his work in the ministry.
- Just imagine, in worship we bow before the Throne of God; we bow at His feet and bathe them with our adoration. Spiritually, we lay prostrate before Him, honoring Him as God; adoring His holiness; praising His goodness; thanking Him for His mercy; glorifying Him for His grace; and magnifying Him for His salvation.
- While before God, instead of hearing His voice before you, a voice comes from behind you. This causes you to turn to see the voice of the Lord.

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Notice that true worship will always cause you to turn; it changes you; you never come out the way you went in.

- Worship is a divine exchange; your garment of heaviness is exchange for a garment of praise; your filthy garments are removed and you are given a garment of righteousness; your sins are exchanged for salvation; your heaviness is exchanged for joy. This should be a daily experience, not the weekly one that many of you limit yourself to.
- When he turned, he saw what he heard; he saw the voice as a two edged sword coming from the mouth of the Lord; he also saw, seven lamp stands and seven stars in the right hand of Jesus, as He stood in the midst of the lamp stands.
- Worship opens your eyes and senses to the heavenly. It allows you to experience God in a way that the natural man will never experience. Worship is the very place where the heart of God dwells. So, we should never fail to enter into worship.
- The seven churches were located in Asia. Asia is used to denote a Roman province which embraced the western parts of Asia Minor, and of which Ephesus was the capital. Therefore, the first message goes to Ephesus, the capital, which represents the heart, the mind, the controlling organ of everything else.

## Rev 2:1-7

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith *he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand*, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 *I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience*, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and *hast not fainted*.

4 *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love*.

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5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

- Our relationship with Christ is what keeps us within His presence. We often take our positions for granted.
- The accommodations for Ephesus showed that they were patient, hard workers, faithful, and consistent. But, besides all of this, they resembled Martha more than Mary. They were busy, but forgot the weightier matter, which was their primary passion, their love for God.
- Your love for God is expressed in your worship of God. How can you love Him and not worship Him? Some of you have become so busy doing ministry, taking care of your own personal needs, building your own careers, until you forgot to worship God who has made all things possible.
- In spite of all of John's difficulties, he never failed to worship God. What troubles are big enough to keep you from worshipping God? Worship is a matter of choice; you choose to worship or not to worship.
- I believe that there is a mercy seat on the ark of God in our hearts and He sits upon it only when we worship Him. He never came into the Tabernacle or the Temple unless proper worship was done by the priests.
- God is seeking for your return to worship so that He may sit, dwell, and reign in your life.
- In verse 5, Jesus gives the consequence of failing to return to your first love, you being removed from His presence. Remember the cry of David in Ps 51:11, "*Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*" The worst place to be is away from the presence of the Lord.

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- To prevent being cast away, He gives us three steps; (1) Remember, (2) Repent, and (3) Return. Remember the place of your error so you won't repeat it again. How sad it is that most people do not remember this. Therefore, they repeat the same mistake over and over and over again.
- Secondly, repent of your error. Acknowledge your mistake, then willingly turn and do things in a godly fashion. Repent means more than simply confessing, but it requires a turning away from, also.
- In closing, the last thing to do is to return to your first work; return to worship; return to loving God; return to loving each other. Returning to your first works will always give you proper perspective on your life.
- Keeping Jesus in the midst of us allows us to eat of the tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God. This is a guarantee of eternal life with God forever more.

**Keep Jesus in the midst of us!!!**