"DRAWING CLOSER TO JESUS"

INTRODUCTION: Hymn: "Draw Me Nearer"

All who come to Jesus have "*life*" (eternal life) [John 5:40, 6:37], and have an inseparable mysterious oneness with Him [Eph. 5:30; I Cor. 6:17].

Is the oneness you have with Christ merely positional (relational)? Or is it experiential (a daily experience)?

Do you have close fellowship with Him, or do you cling only to your relationship with Him?

Paul's goal (as a Christian) as expressed by his words was: *"that I may known Him"* (Phil. 3:10). (not know about Him - theological facts, conceptual knowledge; but rather, a personal, intimate, friendship knowledge).

Who is this One who is worthy of our intimate closeness? He is the Creator, Sustainer, Savior, Keeper, Provider, etc.

(Note: John's closeness to Christ - John 21:20).

Reasons why people don't draw close to Jesus:

1. Sin (a love for darkness - Jn. 3:19)

2. Worldliness (a love for the world - Ja. 4:4; I Jn. 2:15-16)
   Our Lord is a jealous God - Ex. 34:14 (Note: Spurgeon, Sept. 12)

3. Busyness (a preoccupation with other priorities) (Ex: Mary vs. Martha - Luke 10:38-42)

***The quality of your life can be measured by your closeness to the Life-Giver.**

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10).

I. Drawing close to Jesus will produce much FRUIT in your life

John 15:4 - *"Abide in me, and I in you, As the branch cannot bear fruit except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."*

II. Drawing close to Jesus will produce answered PRAYER in your life

John 15:7 - *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."*

III. Drawing close to Jesus will produce peaceful REST

Matthew 11:28 - 30 - *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

IV. Drawing close to Jesus will produce spiritual REFRESHMENT

John 7:37 - *"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."*

V. Drawing close to Jesus will produce full JOY

Psalm 16:11 - *"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*

VI. Drawing close to Jesus will produce divine COMPANIONSHIP

James 4:8a - *"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."*

VII. Drawing close to Jesus will produce bold CONFIDENCE

I John 2:28 - *"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."*

CONCLUSION: It's time to get to know Jesus better (Eph. 3:17-19).

Hymn: "Higher Ground"

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