

## AND JESUS SAID, “COME HANG OUT.”

---

Series: ReFocus  
May 2, 2021  
Edgar King  
Discipleship, Vision,  
Matthew 28:19-20

Hey, we are doing a collection of talks that will share TVCN in this coming season. We exist for the sake of our city and we exist to bring life to the city of Nakuru.

And we really believe that true life is found only in a real relationship with God. And we only enter this relationship and the reality of true life through Jesus who is the centre of this diverse community forming here.

Now, the thing is it is possible to have faith in Jesus or even go to church throughout your life and not see this life we keep talking about. And not enter this reality.

You have probably noticed this yourself when you look around. You may have noticed that sadly quite often people in the church are not very different from those who do not believe.

Where is real transformation? Where is this life that we were called to enter into? And sadly this disillusionment leads many to walk away while keeping many from coming in.

Often we miss the crucial point: that to experience this reality, for real transformation that brings life to happen, we have to intentionally apprentice under Jesus. We have to do what disciples do. And that is; to be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

We are being formed into something, the question is what? Our family of origin, the places we lived, our experience have formed us and are forming us into something. You do not accidentally become like Jesus. We have to intentionally reorient our lives around those 3 goals: be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

Today I wanna talk a little about the Being with Jesus bit.

Every apprentice first has the job of actually being around their master or sensei or teacher as they do their thing. Actually, Jesus also invites his disciples to first just hang out with him.

We cannot be disciples of Jesus if we do not hang out with Jesus. Just be with Jesus.

There was a guy called John who actually baptised Jesus. He too was a holy man and had disciples. One day he saw Jesus walking. This was after he had baptised him. He said to his disciples, "That is the guy". (He said it more like, "behold the lamb of God.") 2 of his disciples were hanging out with him and they immediately left to follow Jesus.

They caught up with Jesus and asked him where he lived. Which is so creepy for strangers to ask. But because he is a rabbi maybe that makes sense.

Guess what? Jesus says, "Come and see". Then Jesus meets another guy and he pretty much says the same thing, come follow me. Jesus meets a tax collector at his booth. Says the same thing, come be with me or come hang out with me.

To become like Jesus we must be with Jesus. We must hang out with him and around him. This means carving out time and space. Is this not how we are with people? It happens in a time and space, without which no real affection can grow. To become like your master, you must be with him.

You see, Jesus was just like the father, our father in heaven. He often said, if you see Him you have seen the father. Another way he put this was that he only did what he saw the father doing. Another way he put it was that he only said what he heard the father saying.

Jesus is implying that he made it a habit to be with the father and therefore he was always aware of what the father is doing and saying.

Jesus knew how to be in 2 places at once. Wherever he was at the moment and with the father. And he also deliberately organized his life in a way that allowed him to always focus and be with the father. Not in some special spiritual way only accessible to a chosen few. He set aside time and space to spend time with the father.

At 12 years old, Jesus gets lost in the temple and when his parents find him he says that he had to be in his father's house. And we know that Jesus continued as a practice to gather for worship with other jews at synagogue and at the temple.

Jesus at 30 right after his baptism takes a prolonged season of solitude, prayer and fasting. He goes into the desert for this. The point was not hunger or just being alone or praying because he was a jew, he was hanging out with his father.

And we know that throughout Jesus' ministry he continued the practice of prayer and fasting, reading and memorising scripture and life in community.

Jesus doesn't just assume he will be one with the father, instead, he arranges his life around the goal of spending time with the father. He is in the father and the father is in him still he does this. He is at home in God. This is what is called practising the presence of God.

So it goes without saying that if we are to be like our master Jesus, we must make it our priority to be with him, to just hang out with him. We must order and arrange our lives around that goal.

If we are convinced that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, if we are convinced that Jesus offered life and life in its fullness, this must be part of how we live.

If we believe that Nakuru needs the life Jesus offers then we must live in this way. If we look at Jesus and we admire him and want to learn from him, be his apprentices, we must spend time with Jesus.

One day Jesus was talking to his disciples about this. He was nearing the time of his death. I have often said that when people know they are about to die they tend to hone in on the important themes of life for them. So these conversations were very key for Jesus.

And guess what one of them was? He was telling them to not forget to keep being with him.

Look at it here in John 15: 4-6

4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Other versions have the word abide instead of remain. This is from the same place we get the word abode, a word we don't use any more. It really just means home. Jesus is saying: Be in me. Be found in me. Make your home in me.

If you hope to see fruitfulness in your following of Jesus or in Trinity's bringing life to this city, we must abide in him, remain in him, be found in him, make our home in him.

We must learn to be in 2 places at once. To be at work and with Jesus because oh you gonna need some patience. To be with your spouse and be with Jesus. Because sometimes love doesn't always come easy. To live in an over-sexualised culture and be with Jesus because self-control is not encouraged in a world of instant gratification. And more.

We have to learn to be in two places at once. To always be at home in Jesus, to always remain and abide in Him.

If you are looking at Jesus and you are seeing fruitfulness that you admire. Gentleness, peace, patience, love, joy, goodness, non-anxiousness and you would want that in your life too. And you believe that real life is made of this, you must make your home in Jesus. Otherwise, seeing these things in your life will just a dream. Apart from Him, we cannot do anything.

But how do we spend time with Jesus when he is not physically with us?

Before this portion, we just read Jesus answered this question. Still in this conversation about what matters most now that he is about to die.

John 14:16

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[c] in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Jesus talks about how he will still be with the disciples. Yet another comforter. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is coming to us. Or what can also be read as, "the father will send, another one of me".

So how can we hang out with Jesus? By being with the Holy Spirit. How can we make our home in Jesus? By allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. How can we be in 2 places at once? By constantly being aware of the Holy Spirit. In the kitchen, in the store, in the restaurants that are now open again and in the hospital rooms.

But you do not just wake up one morning and you know how to be at home with the Holy Spirit. I imagine married people do not just feel at home with each other because they signed a document. They instead carve out time and space. As they intentionally spend time together they begin to be at home with each other.

This is the same way it works. We must weave into our day and lifestyle a carving of time and space to be with Jesus and dwell with the Holy Spirit. It has to find its way into our schedules or it just won't happen. This is why I said a few weeks ago that if you want to know what is forming you, look at your schedule.

So many people are believers of Jesus but are being formed by Facebook, TikTok, New stations etc. We spend more time on our phones than with Jesus. You may be a believer but a disciple of Zucckerburg or Hannity and Maddow or Lilian Kasavuli or Netflix.

Spending time with Jesus and being at home in him must make it into our schedules if we hope to become like Jesus and be fruitful. If we hope to bring to Nakuru the life it needs.

So Jesus did this in his own life by carving out time to just pray and be with the father. He would go away to a place where he was alone and not distracted by people to be with the father.

His keeping of the sabbath was a sabbath unto the Lord and he would be with the father. Jesus lived a lifestyle in which he carved out space and time to simply spend time with His father.

So much so at one point there had been so much happening he needed to then spend time with the father but they also needed to get to another side of the shore. What he did was put the disciples on the boat and let them leave him. So finally he had peace and quiet to spend time with the father.

He does not seem bothered by FOMO. Rather spending time with the father seems more important than getting to someplace or hanging out with the dudes.

If we are going to be apprentices of Jesus and at home with him, we must find time and space to be with the Holy Spirit. What does this look like? Times of worship and prayer. Times of silence and solitude where we silence all other stimuli and just sit with God. Sometimes missing the next big thing that is happening so that we can pray. Sometimes putting that phone away and switching off the TV so that we can hear His voice. Sometimes skipping a lunch break because that is the only time you got that day to pray or waking up early because you still have to make it to work by 9. We must intentionally carve out time and space to be with Jesus if we are going to be at home with Him.

Will you as an apprentice of Jesus carve out time and space this week to just hang out with Jesus?