Let Them See Jesus

Objective: Motivate Christians to display the very image of Christ at all times.

Reading: John 14:1-14.

Memory: John 14:9, “...Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father....”

Introduction:
1. A lot of folks go through life saying “where is God”? Let me see Him”. Maybe you've heard that said.
2. Jesus told his disciples in John 14 that if they had seen Jesus, they had seen the Father! Obviously He is not talking about a physical image, but a portrayal of the character and nature of God, that is; by looking at who and what Jesus is, folks ought to be able to see God!
3. Jesus is “… the image of the invisible God,” (Colossians 1:15) and we, as Christians are to be the very image of Christ! This means that when people see us (Christians) they ought to be able to see Jesus and hence able to see God!
4. Christ is the very image and radiance of God the Father, in the flesh. With Christ living in us, with us being transformed into His likeness, with us being the fullness of Him who fills all in all, the very body of Christ. Whenever folks see us, they should feel like they have seen Jesus. As Christians...

We should portray the very image of Christ. (HOW?)

If Christ is living and abiding in us, if we are His ambassadors, if we are being transformed into very essence of Christ, then when we have been with someone, they should feel as if they have been in the very presence of God. (We will likely fall short quite often, but this is a very appropriate goal, and with His mighty power at work in us, we can do this. Let’s consider how our attitudes, behavior, very spirit can convey the Presence of God to others.

People were often surprised, but always filled with joy to see Jesus among the sick and troubled. How about us. We ought to go where Jesus would go and do what He would do so His presence is felt among

I. Sick and troubled.
A. The ill and terminally ill.
   1. Who needs hope that may not have it? Let them feel God’s compassion! Help them understand that they are loved more than they can imagine. Reach out to care for them. Just sit with them.
   2. Help them re-kindle “hope”. Help revive their spirits. Because life does not end at the grave.
   3. Encourage them with such passages as:
      a. 1 Peter 1:3-6, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”
      b. Romans 8:18, “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”
   4. Let them see confident hope and trust in life! Let them see no fear of death because Jesus “…shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Hebrews 2:14-15) Give them a future, instill hope in them. Lead them to Christ. Start by letting them see Jesus in you!

B. The grieving or fearful.
   1. For whatever reason; let them see hope and how hope behaves in midst of adversity.
   2. Jesus, was a man or sorrows. He had enemies who plotted against him. He faced all kinds of slander and efforts from enemies, but nothing happened until God was ready for it to happen.
   3. Jesus entrusted Himself to the Father and willingly endured troubles – He knew the Father was working something glorious out through it all and was willing to suffer and endure because He trusted God. Even death on a cross – He knew there was a reason!
   4. Let them see such confidence in the Creator, in the One Who controls all. Who has all authority in heaven and on earth. Who has been given all supremacy!
a. He stilled the storm. Even the wind and waves obey Him! He fed over 5,000.
b. He spoke and a legion of demons left and went into the pigs and jumped off the cliff.
c. He can provide. He can heal. He knows how to rescue.

Let them see, in you, the trust with which Jesus faced all life’s troubles. Let them see and FEEL that patience and willingness in you, because you trust that same God. Let them see Jesus

If we become new creations in Christ, where should it be most evident; among those who know us best.

II. Friends and acquaintances.
A. Here is where we tend to cover it up.
1. We want to be accepted. We don’t want friends to poke fun. We don’t want to lose friends so we often hide any change that has taken place. Don’t. Let them see Jesus in you!
2. We want to go on with same habits and practices we have always had – but if Christ lives in us, something must have changed! Endorse the change. Promote the change.
3. Determine to have the courage to openly confess Jesus as Lord, not just with your words, but with your very life! Matthew 10:32-33, “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.” Openly acknowledge that you follow Him now. Let His lordship be seen in your life.
   a. Let them witness the transformation and conviction. It may come out in a change in your language – that may shock some people! Or a change in “spirit” in the sense of attitude – would your spouse notice if you were happy and positive (and generous) instead of grumpy and down all the time? Let them see a new-found humility and strength.
   b. Let folks know you are no longer comfortable with dirty jokes and gossip or watching the same TV shows you used to. Let them see a new love for the truth. A new curiosity and longing for true spirituality, a new concern for what God cares about. A concern to see justice done.
   c. Let them see that habits, practices and things of this world no longer carry the same value for you that they used to.

B. Let them see your new character and focus.
1. Philippians 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice.” Can your friends see this in you?
2. Philippians 4:5, “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.” If you approach things that used to throw you into outrage, with gentleness – will folks feel like they have seen Jesus? A resurrection maybe?
3. Romans 8:30; “And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” “Let them see how you have been “glorified”!
   a. Surely something is different about you if you are truly committed to God. If the Holy Spirit NOW indwells you to convict you of sin, to lead you to truth, to mark you as a child of God, that glory should show up somehow.
   b. It may not make you a super athlete or superstar model, but something inside, in your soul has become gloriously Christ-like and it should show – if not, perhaps you should pray for it and check to see if you are living hard-hearted or receptive to God’s will. If you are really seeking God’s will – if you are allowing yourself to be transformed – glorified.

C. Let folks see your faith.
1. Pray. Go to church. Read your Bible. Not to brag about, not to make a show of it, but not to hide it either. If God’s Word is now part of your life, don’t hide it.
2. Let faith, righteousness, Jesus, salvation, thanksgiving to God flow naturally into your conversation. Don’t be ashamed or embarrassed by Christianity if it in your new found life!
3. Let them see your determination to avoid sin and temptation and live righteousness whether someone is looking or not.
4. Let them see your courage, self-sacrifice and the self-control with which you pursue holiness and righteousness. Share your faith.
5. 1 Peter 3:15-16, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do
this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander." Let your friends see Jesus – in you! And maybe even ask questions!

If people feel the Presence of God when they are around you, some worldly people will stand amazed. They will see light of God as it shines through you and be drawn to it. Others will object and try to stamp out that light. It is important let people experience Christ in you even when they are

III. Enemies
A. Those who oppose you personally.
   1. When you leave, they should feel as they would if it had really been Jesus who was just leaving.
   2. Some of them should feel as if they have been warned. Maybe alarmed, as they might have felt had Jesus been there.
   3. This requires courage on our part. Whether they really like it or not, when people are in the presence of Jesus, they are in the presence of Truth.
   4. Requires love to die for others. Requires not taking any offense – turning the other cheek. A willingness to go the extra mile.
   5. 1 Peter 2:12, “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”
   6. To leave such people feeling like they have been in the very presence of Christ, we have an example to follow; 1 Peter 2:21-23, “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22”He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.” Let folks be amazed at such a response to their opposition.

B. Others who oppose godliness.
   1. How you act in regard to folks who don’t profess to be “enemies” but are simply worldly and follow the ways of the world? Maybe their opposition is seen in negligent ignorance or advancing of evil such as is so often seen in political agendas or Hollywood type agendas, or even academic fields. Taking prayer out of schools, etc.
   2. First of all, though Christ would be very passionate, He would not sin! He would not go around shooting abortion doctors. He taught; Luke 6:27-29, “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic.”
   3. Let them see unusual power and behavior at work in you. He forgave even those as they were crucifying Him!
      b. Romans 12:21, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”
   4. Let even your enemies feel like they have been in the presence of Jesus.

So What?
   Christian, if Jesus does live in you, wherever you go, people should see and feel His presence. When you leave, they should feel as if they had been in the presence of Jesus.

Closing Prayer:
Let Them See Jesus
Topical

Reading: John 14:1-14.

“...A_ w_ h_ s_ m_ h_ s_ t_ F_ ...”

Memory: John 14:9

Colossians 1:15
We should portray the very image of Christ.
Christians should make people feel as if they have been in the very presence of God.

I. Sick and troubled.
A. The ill and terminally ill.
   1 Peter 1:3-6  Romans 8:18  Hebrews 2:14-15

B. The grieving or fearful.

II. Friends and acquaintances.
A. Here is where we tend to cover it up.
   Matthew 10:32-33

B. Let them see your new character and focus.
   Philippians 4:4  Philippians 4:5  Romans 8:30

C. Let folks see your faith.
   1 Peter 3:15-16

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   1 Peter 2:12  1 Peter 2:21-23

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