

Where Jesus Dwells

Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? —John 1:38

Grady Nutt told this story on national television:

A Haynesville, Louisiana pastor was delivering his weekly children's sermon to the youngsters in his church. Wishing to impress upon them how God can be reached, he approached them with his Bible in one hand and the local telephone directory in the other.

"If I wanted to call the police, where would I look to know how to call?"

"You would look in the phone book," came an eager reply. The same response came when he asked about the fire department and the doctor.

"If I wanted to get in touch with God, where would I look?" After a moment, he suggested, "Would I look in the phone book?"

To this, a gruff youngster retorted: "No, God don't live in Haynesville."

Where does Jesus dwell? It is good news that Jesus does live in Haynesville—and all places where lives are open to his presence.

Pray for a new openness to the resident Christ.

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of minutes, he said, I can re-unite with my family. But God would not let him go.
He dropped to his knees, he poured out his heart to God, he asked for God's strength
to deal with this tragedy. And believe you me, the struggle was long and difficult.
But slowly, he was able to find his way back.

Eventually, he had and reared a second family. As he contemplated how God had
seen him through the tragic experience. He wrote a hymn that has been known to all
Christians, around the world.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
Sweetest name I know
Fills my every longing
Keeps me singing as I go.

now possesses something every useful. A useful thing in our lives. And that we pass through life sometimes frightened. Things turn into serpents. We can discover the proper way to grapple with them - then we will come and experience this full blessing. In the life of Moses, the source of his strength was God. Every time Moses leaned on that shepherd's staff, he was reminded that God was his strength. Jonah, Elijah, and Peter experienced those moments when they felt compelled to run and hide. However, like Moses, they were able to return. And succeed because God was their strength.

*For 19 yrs Fire burning small Centration (1500) from coal fields -
 15 federal agencies spent 3.5 million against fire -
 Deep holes vent heat - gas -
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 Jubilation -
 Hill - greater fire Mad 25.4%*

Luther Bridgers was a great evangelistic singer. In a Revival Meeting one week that he received/^{word} that his wife and two children were burned to death in a fire. He was crushed by the news - he ran out into the night. He was in the state of shock. Coming to a river, he gave serious consideration to taking his own life. In a matter of minutes, he said, I can re-unite with my family. But God would not let him go. He dropped to his knees, he poured out his heart to God, he asked for God's strength to deal with this tragedy. And believe you me, the struggle was long and difficult. But slowly, he was able to find his way back.

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From Moses' shepherds staff - we learn that God can use what we have. And there are times when we want to hide and we are frightened. But with God's help, we can grapple with it. And even accomplish the impossible. But let us not forget that the real source of strength is to rely upon divine aid. And the Lord can keep us singing as we go, forward in His will.

Sometimes religious reform and change may be dreadful for some of us. And we may get to feeling that the serpents in our daily life are so great, and so tremendous - but this morning, let it be known to you that the life-changing experience that you need will not be found in the serpent but will be found in the shepherd's staff - which is the Word of God.