



LAY HOLD OF JESUS

In John chapter 1 we can see 8 different aspects of Jesus' life presented. As we lay hold of Him in these unbelievably diverse ways, some heavenly and some earthly, we are equipped for this time, because we are going to desperately need Him to minister, not only to us and to our church, but to our city, our nation, and our world. (*John 1:29-51*)

1. **Jesus is the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world, thereby removing our guilt and shame. In Revelation though we see the Lamb as the one who is worthy to open the scroll, He is the light of heaven and we are invited to the great wedding of the Lamb. (*Rev 5:5-6; 19:7; 21:23*)
2. **Jesus is the giver of the Holy Spirit.** He takes away everything that is bad and He gives us the Holy Spirit, who gives us the power to the keep in step with God. (*Luke 24:49*)
3. **Jesus is the Son of God** who give us access to the presence of the Father. In *2 Corinthians 1* the Father is described as the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. As we lay hold of Jesus as the Son of God we come close to God, hear His kind words and feel the friendliness of God.
4. **Jesus is our Rabbi** who is always teaching us. The first lesson we learn is that His yoke is easy and His burden is light, but this is also true as we learn to die to ourselves. In this season Jesus is teaching us to die well. (*Luke 9:23*)
5. **Jesus is the Messiah**, the anointed one, the fulfilment of the prophesied Messiah. As you lay hold of Jesus as the fulfilment we trust that you will be fully filled. Fully filled with dreams, promises, hope and encouragement for the future, because Jesus is the fulfilment, the pinnacle of the revelation of God.
6. **Jesus of Nazareth**, John from Bronkhorstpruit and every one of us have at least one thing in common, we understand ordinary life. Jesus stepped into the small town life of Nazareth and thereby the ordinariness of life so that He could identify with us in every way. As we lay hold of Jesus of Nazareth He can step into our ordinary lives today.
7. **Jesus is the King of Israel**, the Church and He is the ultimate sovereign, but this doesn't mean there isn't a fight to be king in our lives. We have to lay hold of King Jesus to keep Him as King over every area of our lives.
8. **Jesus as the Son of Man** helps us understand Jacob's dream where we see a ladder connecting heaven and earth, Jesus as the Son of man is the ladder that connects heaven and earth. As we lay hold of Jesus as the Son of man, Jesus rests on our dustiness and reaches into heaven, connecting our dusty lives to the resources of heaven. Meaning we don't have to reach anymore, we just have to trust Him. (*Gen 28:10-22*)

Questions

1. What aspect of Jesus did you see that you've never seen before?
2. How are you learning to lay hold of Jesus more at this time?