For my determined purpose is that I may know Him *that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him,* ***perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly,*** *and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed in spirit into His likeness even to His death*. Philippians 3:10 Amplified

Knowing Whom You Follow

Scholars estimate that more has been written about Jesus in the last 20 years than in the previous 19 centuries. People are still trying to figure out what to do with Jesus. His life was so pivotal that everything that has happened on the earth is categorized of before Christ or after Christ. The teaching of Jesus was different than the religious teachers of His day. The teachings of Christ caused the hearers to be faced with a decision of what He was to them.

Jesus is no ordinary man.

There has never been, nor will there ever be anyone like Him. He was born of a virgin, He grew up in a small town, worked as a carpenter, didn't own a home, was misunderstood by His family, hated by enemies, **yet loved by the multitudes**. His teachings were revolutionary and His miracles undeniable. He claimed nothing less than equality with God and proclaimed Himself as the long expected Messiah. Jesus never left sitting on the fence as an option.

Jesus came teaching no ordinary message. Matthew 9:35-36

Jesus came preaching a clear and certain message. He did not invite His followers to travel on an uncertain course but to follow Him and believe in Him and all He taught them about the kingdom of God.

Jesus loved people with an _____ love.

The power of His personhood was demonstrated by the acts of love that gave people profound forgiveness and supernatural answers.

Jesus encountered people with extraordinary methods.

Jesus speaks to the winds and waves and they obey. Mark 4: 35-41

Jesus speaks to demons and they fear him and obey. Mark 5:1-11

Jesus has compassion on the sick and heals them. Matt. 15:29-31

Jesus feeds the multitudes with unlimited supply. Matt. 15:32-38

He authenticated His heavenly teaching with compassion and miracles that made His authority irrefutable.

Core Point: God in sending His Son, sent no ordinary man to solve the problems of mankind. Jesus brought God's message, with God's supernatural methods and showed the extraordinary compassion of the kingdom of God.

His invitations were no ordinary invitations.

Life is filled with unwelcome invitations; so much so that we become experts at rejecting invitations.

Jesus went through His ministry, calling people to Himself. Some of His invitations were intensely personal; all His invitations were a call to **share His love and His life**. When Jesus came He began relationships with the power of His invitations. **These are no ordinary invitations; they are divine ones.**

It must have been astounding to the common men and women He called and invited to be followers of Him.

The Invitations of Christ

1. **Come and see.** John 1:39
2. **He invites us to come and _____.** Matthew 11:28-29
3. **He invites us to come and be satisfied.** John 7:37
4. **He invites us to take up the cross and follow Him.** Mark 10:21
5. **Jesus calls us to kingdom purpose.** Matthew 25:34
6. **Jesus invites us to come and fellowship with Him.** John 21:12
7. **Jesus invites us to invite_____ into our lives.**

Behold - I stand at the door. And I am knocking. ***If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I also will come-in to him.*** *And I will have-dinner with him, and he with Me.* Rev. 3:20 DLNT

As we endeavor to have a closer walk with Jesus, we will learn to let Him walk with us **in all** we encounter in life.

With Jesus in our life:

It is a life of **companionship.**
It is a life **conversation.**
It is a life **of instruction and learning.**
It is a life of **continual revelation.**
It is a life of **unending _____!**

Core Statement: My determined purpose is to know Jesus my Savior and Lord, in a deeper and deeper way. I respond to His invitations, and enjoy His constant companionship as I live all of my life with Him!