

## COME, SIT WITH ME AWHILE

*John 8:2*

***“...early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him and He sat down and taught them”***

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They came to Him...to be in His Presence

To listen...that's why they came

Jesus expected them to come to Him for He was there waiting. They had heard Him speak and His word had stirred in them a hunger to be in His Presence and to hear more of His word.

In John 7: 45-46, we read of an occasion where the officers who were to have arrested Jesus reported back to the priests and Pharisees without Him. When questioned, *“Why have you not brought Him?”* their reply was *“No man ever spoke like this Man!”* (John 7:46)

Gathered in the temple, these people were experiencing that indeed no man had ever spoken like this Man.

They came ‘early in the morning’. It cost them effort, self-discipline, involving a decision on priorities and values. They came because an extra hour in bed could not compare with the value of meeting with Jesus! The issue had been settled. His presence was infinitely more desirable than any fleeting comfort of the flesh!

Jesus was waiting to receive them into fellowship with Himself. Isn't it precious to know that, if we will take time to meet with Him, He is always there waiting and desiring to meet with us?

He will never disappoint us, for if we will choose to *“draw near to Him, He will draw near to us,”* as we are assured in James 4:8.

He taught them and, if we will take time to ‘sit at His feet’ with a heart to listen, He will teach us by His word, through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus ‘sat down’, signifying His willingness for restful, unhurried communion. He was prepared to spend the time that they wished and to be both Teacher and Friend to those who came to Him.

Those that came desired His presence and His word; they had been awakened that the word He spoke was personal, a word for them, a word of love and grace, food for their souls and relevant to their own lives and that grace and truth were emanating from this Man in pure, holy love.

What a contrast that is to the oft-mentioned 'multitude' in John 6:2, following Jesus because they were 'seeing signs'. They were following after excitement and spectacle, but not after Him, for Himself. They wanted all that He would give to make their outward lives better but without desire for the living word He gave.

Later, at the time that Jesus rode through the street on a donkey, with crowds of onlookers lining both sides of the road, it is said that *"He saw the city and wept over it, saying, 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes'" (Luke 19:41-42)*. Jesus knew that many remained aloof from His word, choosing not to respond. His words, *"if you had known, even you"* make it very clear that His words are for each individual personally.

*"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts"* is His wise and loving message to each one of us, given in Hebrews 3:15.

Let us come – to Him, to HIMSELF, and He will 'sit down', as it were, and speak through His precious written word and teach us of Himself, that we might joyfully surrender to His Lordship in our lives and walk on day by day with Him in His purposes.

His invitation to each one of us is;

**Come , sit with Me awhile!**

