

Welcome! Welcome! Step right up! What can I do for you today?

You wish to see Jesus, do you? Okay. Let me see what I have.

Would you like seats in the lower level? I still have a few up front and center. The acoustics are fabulous there. Or are you more of the balcony type – you want to see and know what he is doing, but you don't want to get too close. That may require more of you than you really want to give.

Well, regardless, we'll find you the perfect spot.

So why do you want to see this Jesus? Did you come to see the show?

Ah, you want to see what all he can do. I can't blame you there.

I hear he puts on quite a performance. Making the blind see and crippled people walk again; raising a man back to life after he has been dead for four days. I hear he can even walk on water.

Now that would be something to see. You want to be wowed, to be entertained. Come to the show, witness the extraordinary and then go back home where you can play by your own rules.

Or do you wish to see Jesus because you want to hear him speak?

I hear he is an incredible orator. Here in Jerusalem the crowds follow him everywhere hanging on his every word. You like to hear his skirmishes with the Jewish leaders don't you? Me too.

Don't you think he says that stuff at times just to rile them up, get on their last nerve? He makes all of these big claims.

"I am the light of the world, the good shepherd."

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

"I am the way, the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

What does all of that mean anyway?

You're not here to listen to him or to see Jesus perform?

Oh, I see, you wish to see Jesus so that he can fulfill your request, so that he can do some service for you. Well, that makes sense.

He does seem to be a jack of all trades. You want your kids to grow up with good morals and a solid foundation so you bring them here and ask Jesus to help with that. You or a loved one is in need of healing or your spouse is unemployed. You want to have less stress in your life, for life to be easier than it presently is.

You want your deep sadness to one day go away.

Well, you're definitely coming to see the right guy. He may be the only one capable of helping with some of these problems.

I'm not quite sure how he works though. Sometimes people get what they are asking for and other times they don't.

I don't know his reasoning for saying "yes" or "no," but I have seen this play out time and time again even when people's requests sounded fairly legitimate. It's a mystery to me.

Let me give you some advice here, if I may. If you really wish to see Jesus, there is only one place you need to look. It's right over there.

Look to the cross. The cross tells you all that you need to know about him.

The one who created this world and all that is, even created you and me, was willing to come to us as a human being.

He loved us so much that he walked this life with us, taught us the ways of God and then was willing to die on this instrument of torture because of all the wrong we have done.

That's some kind of love when you are willing to suffer like that for the mistakes that the rest of us have made.

Jesus says that hanging on the cross was his crowning achievement, his moment of glory. Didn't look like it to me. It looked like the most humiliating and excruciating death a man could face. But Jesus says that it was on the cross that he won the battle over evil.

He drove out the ruler of this world. And now because of his sacrifice we are not hopelessly enslaved to sin and death, but through Jesus can know life and love forever the way God always intended it to be. I know that's a lot to wrap your head around. Jesus said it this way,

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Jesus fell to earth and died. The fruit that has come from his dying is our chance to live in his love forever.

Well, looking at my updated seating chart here I have some good news and some bad news. Bad news first. There is no seating available for the show. Calm down, calm down. I know; what I saw before with those open seats must have been a glitch

in the program. Yes, that's correct sir, ma'm. You will not be able to sit and watch. However, remember, I told you that there is good news. There is space available for you but you will be on stage with Jesus.

Yes, everyone is on stage with Jesus. No, it is just like it is with the rest of life. You don't get to sit on the sidelines. You don't get to just watch. Don't you get it? You are not the audience.

God is the audience and perhaps all those who are still searching, all those who have not seen Jesus yet. And here is the big dilemma, my friend. You and all those other Christians are on stage for God and the world to see and that cross over there lies empty.

Jesus is no longer physically present at center stage.

If people are searching and wish to see Jesus, the best chance of them catching a glimpse of Jesus is by seeing you.

Your forehead has been marked with his cross. He has given you his Spirit, the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you. The love of Christ dwells in you. You know that you are completely loved by Jesus who bled and died on the cross and then rose from the dead.

These folks who are searching need to see Jesus in you.

How do you do that? You follow Jesus. He is with you; just let him guide you. Love when the world says hate. Give when the world says to be selfish. Honor and care for others before looking after your own desires. Be willing to fall to the earth and die so that Jesus can bring forth fruit and new life through you.

Then God receives glory through you and you will know love like you've never known it before.

So what do you say? You're up for Act 2 of the show.

People need to see Jesus and it's your time to be on stage.

Don't worry if you forget your lines. Remember God is like a parent at a school play. He will be sitting there perched on the edge of his seat, mouthing your lines along with you and coaching you each step of the way.

And no matter what will give you a standing ovation at the curtain call.

Are you ready? Let's go.

