*Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus*

Session 4: Seeing Jesus Today

**Session Goals:**

* Encounter the power of expectancy and examine the role of persistence in actively seeking Christ’s presence and listening for Christ’s voice
* Explore teachings of Jesus that help answer the questions:
	+ What do we need to do to see and experience Jesus today?
	+ When do we see Jesus?
	+ Where do we find Jesus today?
* Learn more about the role of the community and the presence of the Holy Spirit in bringing more clarity about God’s will for our lives

**Biblical Foundation:**

Matthew 7:7-8

**7**“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. **8**For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

John 12:21

**21**They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.”

**Opening Prayer:** *Open My Eyes that I may See:*Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

*Amen.*

***WATCH THE VIDEO FOR SESSION 4***

**Ponder during the video*:*** *Are you looking for Jesus?*

**Video Discussion questions:**

1. What does Slaughter mean that the phrase “in my name” from John 14:14 is key?
2. Slaughter asks, “How could I see the sedan and not the Sudan?” What does it have to do with expectancy?
3. What is the role of persistence in addressing compassion fatigue?
4. Children below poverty level in Ocean City – what is our response?

Children below poverty level. (2017):

Ocean City, New Jersey: 12.2%

State: 13.8%

Poverty rate among high school graduates not in families:

Ocean City: 11.1%

New Jersey: 13.8%

Poverty rate among people who did not graduate high school not in families:

Ocean City: 20.1%

New Jersey: 34.7%

**Bible Study:**

Matthew 7:7-8

1. How do you think Christians can sustain that kind of persistence?
2. What spiritual practices do you think might undergird an attitude of actively seeking Christ’s presence and listening for Christ’s voice?

John 14:15-19. & Matthew 18:19-20

1. What is the connection between community and the presence of the Holy Spirit?
2. IF the phrase “in my name” indicates that something is aligned with God’s will, in what ways, might being in community open us to more clarity about God’s will for our lives>

Matthew 25:1-46

1. What do we need to do to see and experience Jesus today?
2. When do we see Jesus?
3. Where do we find Jesus today?

**Challenge:** Find your God-purpose (or Big Hairy Audacious Goal), look back on your faith journey and note where you see evidence of God’s voice… how did you respond? How are you responding?

**Final thoughts** from what you read in Chapter 4 -

**Homework:** Chapter 5

**Prayer Requests:**

**Closing Prayer:** Ephesians 1:17-19