



Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

Exposure

by Bridget Keylor

When I was little, I learned I had a superpower: I could navigate my entire house in the dark. I could walk from room to room in pitch-black conditions, never stumbling or tripping over anything and never reaching for a light. I was so impressed with myself I was sure that I would grow up to be a stealthy spy who could enter and exit any room undetected. For years, I would wake up in the middle of the night, needing a snack or a trip to the bathroom, and quietly maneuver all obstacles with ease. Could I have turned on the lights? Sure I could, but I didn't want to. I wanted to hide. I didn't want to explain what I was doing or why I was up. I didn't want to be exposed.

While I have long since relinquished my dreams of becoming an international woman of mystery, it has been much harder to let go of the need to hide—the desire to not be exposed. Over the years, I have found God aware of this issue and quite active in revealing and confronting it.

Through the course of my life, I have encountered many “whistleblowers.” Maybe it was a friend who called me out on all my inaccurate opinions or a coworker who asked the right questions to illuminate what I would prefer to tuck away. Then there have been people in my life who, when I talk with them, seem to know my thoughts and motives already. Whether friend or foe, family or stranger, in their presence, I am exposed. And I hate it.

So while I am not a huge Pharisee fan, I get what is happening at the end of Luke. Jesus is exposing them, and they hate it. The people love Jesus, and they are captivated by His stories. In Luke 20:9-19, just a few days before His arrest, trial, death, and resurrection, Jesus shares the most revealing parable, the Parable of the Tenants. The tenants refused to pay the landowner what was rightfully his. The tenants beat the landowner's servants. The tenants kill the landowner's beloved son.

By the end of the parable, even the Pharisees realize the story was about them. They want to kill Jesus right then and there, but they realize their wickedness and corruption have been so thoroughly exposed the people around them might attack them. So instead of facing Jesus in the light, they slide back into the dark and hide their plans from the people. Plans that take only a few days to carry out. Plans that allow them to remain corrupt. Plans that keep them from becoming further exposed.

We each have a choice when we are exposed: to step into the light and confess it, or slip further into the dark and live with the corruption. I wish this could be a “one and done” decision in my own life, but the reality is that I have to make this choice regularly. Just last week, I faced the decision to follow the Holy Spirit’s prompting to confess an area of unhealth in my life. God knew nothing in me wanted to have that conversation and feel so exposed before others. But I knew that God could not heal what I would not confess. James 5:16 says it best:

“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

What had been painful, shameful, and hard was suddenly turned into an area of healing and right standing that gave me power and freedom. It truly was like walking out of the dark and into the light. And what the light was exposing was how faithful God is to turn our failure into His victory.

God uses the Pharisees’ failure to secure Christ’s victory and our right standing. How sad that the Pharisees remain bound in the moment we are all set free. How heartbreaking that they refuse to confess amid their exposure. How devastating that they reject the Cornerstone.

What are you refusing to bring into the light? What are you hiding for fear of exposure? Are you willing to embrace the uncomfortability of exposure so God can heal you?

Question What are you holding back from God? Where are you not being fully obedient to the Word of God, to who Jesus is, and to who He’s called you to be?

Family Chat Discuss with your family what partial obedience looks like. Should we obey our parents the first time they ask us to do something?

Take Action Choose today, right now, to hold your hands out to your kind Father, picturing yourself handing to Him whatever it is you have held back from Him. Choose today to phone a friend and let them know what you believe the Lord is telling you is your next step. Don’t delay!