

When Jesus Lays His hand on Your Life

Opening scripture: Revelation 1:1-3, 10-18

Volumes could be said about the verses we have just read. There are so many wonderful mysteries to explore and so much to unveil. However, I want to focus just on three things that I believe the Holy Spirit prompted me to share with you, today.

1. Of all that you seek in this life, seek to know Jesus more.

This book is a “revelation” of Jesus. At the time of John’s greatest trial, at the advanced age of approximately 99, alone in the penal colony of Patmos (with no proper dwelling to call home but apparently living in a cave), at the worst season of his life, He had his greatest encounter with Jesus (truly nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus)!

John knew Jesus probably better than any of the other disciples, he reclined on his chest often, he knew Him personally. Then one day he saw another side of Jesus with Peter and James: Jesus was transfigured before them, on a high mountain (Mk 9). Now marching towards the sunset of his life, John saw Jesus afresh and even more powerful.

Of all that you seek, seek to know Jesus more. Don’t ever stagnate in your relationship with Him. Let the revelation of Jesus grow in your life.

2. Of all that you do in your life, prioritise the presence of God.

V.10 – *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day”*

John didn’t say here, *‘I was in Patmos’* but he said, *“I was in the Spirit”*. Beyond the harsh reality of that island, John found a place called *‘in the Spirit’*. Regardless of where you may find yourself in life, you can always access God’s presence. You can go there. *“In His presence is fullness of joy, at His right-hand pleasures forevermore”* (Psl. 16:11).

In chapter **4:1** John had a vision of a door open in heaven and heard a voice inviting him to *‘come up higher’*. **V. 2** says, *‘immediately I was in the Spirit’*.

Of all you do, prioritise the presence of God!

3. Realise the importance of having the hand of Jesus in your life

V. 16-17 - ***“He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.”***

Within the first and second chapters of Revelation there are 4 consecutive references to the *“right hand of Jesus”*. Here, John saw the right hand of Jesus holding 7 stars.

- a) In the Bible, the image of the right hand of God is always a reference to the pinnacle of authority, also symbolic of strength, and stability.
- b) What a picture of Jesus: Lord over the cosmos, holding stars in His hand, in absolute control and with absolute power.
- c) Now this passage says that those stars that Jesus holds are a reference to His church and its leaders.

How powerful is that? In Him, we are not just meteors or space dust destined to be sucked into a black whole one day. No. He made us stars! And Jesus holds those stars firmly in His mighty hand.

Philippians 2:15b - ... *“children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world*

AMPC - *among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world*

- d) ¹⁷ *And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. **But He laid His right hand on me**, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.*

The same “right hand” of Jesus, powerful and omnipotent, a hand that holds galaxies and orders the universe – that same hand, was laid on John.

He laid His right hand on me! Little, frail, old ‘me’ touched by an omnipotent Jesus!

The Jesus John knew in the flesh was now the exalted Jesus with eyes like fire and feet like brass. The John who used to recline on Jesus’s chest now thought that he wouldn’t even live to tell the story of that encounter: he fell at Jesus’ feet as dead. However, it was the same loving Jesus, ready to lay His hand on Him, ready to lift him up and say, fear not!

He laid His right hand on me! – Have you ever been touched by Him? Has He laid His hand on you? Is the right hand of Jesus on your life?

Psalms 139:5-6 - *You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.*

He laid His right hand on ‘little old me’!

- When the hand of Jesus is in your life, mighty things happen.

Psalms 118:16 NIV - *The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”*

- One thing that was different when Jesus came into my life was the sense of hope, strength and encouragement.

Ezra 7:28b – [...] *So I was encouraged, as the hand of the Lord my God was upon me;*

Isaiah 41:10 - *Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*

- Another sure sign of having the hand of Jesus in our lives is that, despite problems and trouble that come to all of us in this life, there is divine favour.

Psalms 44:3 - *For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, because You favoured them.*

Have you ever been touched by Him? Has He laid His hand on your life? Is the *right hand of Jesus* on your life?

Conclusion

In the worst season of the life of John, nothing was able to separate him from the Jesus he loved. He was banished to an island but could not be banished from the presence of Jesus.

1. Of all that you seek in this life, seek to know Jesus more.
2. Of all that you do in your life, prioritise the presence of God.
3. Seek to live under His mighty hand. Have you been touched by Him? Can you say like John, *He laid His right hand on me?*