



# LET'S VISIT

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## COMPLIMENTS OF JESUS

Jesus was a man of few words, that was his general character. He was not one of those who would tell you how to make a watch when you asked him what time it was. He was not one who used flattery or exaggeration. The complimentary things he said were but few.

Let's be honest. All of us appreciate a compliment provided it is heartfelt and sincere. Most of us however, don't really appreciate what we refer to as a "left handed compliment". You know, when someone says, "well, that's been a good old suit." Then, as someone once told me, looking at my handkerchief in my coat pocket they said, "That handkerchief in your pocket looks real good. If those ever come back in style I'm going to get me one."

Yet, when Jesus gave someone a compliment, it was not superficial. It had nothing to do with a person's clothing or style. It had to do with their heart and their character.

When Jesus met Nathaniel or as he is sometimes called Bartholomew, he said in John 1:47, "behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile." An Israelite indeed. There are no doubt many things Jesus could have said, and yet he focused on the main issue at hand. There were some who were Israelites in appearance, or some who were Israelites according to the flesh, but that is where it stopped. There were some who were nominal Israelites, that is they were Israelites in name only. They offered sacrifices of repentance but were not willing to change their lives. They came to the temple to worship but it was a hollow ritual for them. Circumcision meant they looked like Israelites, but their hearts were far from God.

Yet, Nathaniel was one in whom there was no guile, that is to say there was nothing false. There

was no pretense, no self-deception in Nathaniel. There was no desire to deceive others. This caused Nathaniel to marvel and confess faith in Christ. Jesus told him bigger and better things were coming.

Do you remember the dinner where Mary anointed Jesus with the expensive ointment? It was at the home of Simon, a Pharisee who was also a leper. Jesus was among the invited guests who were present at that dinner. As the story unfolds, Mary brings some very expensive ointment and poured it on the head of Jesus. Some there, including the host, Simon, wanted to be quite critical of Mary and the waste of money this represented. Yet, Jesus said, "Leave her alone, she has done what she could". He further said, "*wherever the gospel would be preached, this would be spoken of as a memorial to her.*"

There was also the time that Jesus went home with a tax collector by the name of Zacchaeus. He was a publican, an outcast, a traitor to his people. Yet, he was proud to have Jesus go home with him and be a guest in his house. As a result of that visit with Jesus, this rich man gave half of his goods to the poor. He was liberal and generous. He was also honest. He vowed he would restore fourfold to any man he had taken anything from wrongly. To this man, Jesus said, "*This day is salvation come to this house.*"

Yet, when I come to the end of my journey, I want  
**(Continued on page 2)**

### In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry  
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday  
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday  
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

# Gathered Here and There

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## *Hearing The Voice Of God*

**For The Pantry. . .**

**April 19 – Dried Beans**



**April 12, 2026  
\$ 2,656.00**

**The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"**

**Compliments of Jesus – Continued from page 1**

to hear Jesus say to me what he said in the story of the talents recorded in Matthew 25. To the man with two talents who had gained two more, and the man with 5 talents who had gained 5 more, Jesus said, *"Well done thou good and faithful servant"*. Those are the words I want to hear my Lord compliment me with some day.

*tp*

## **Getting Something From Worship**

A person once complained about getting nothing from worship. The listener remarked, "Did you take a sack?" The implication of course is we must expect something and be prepared with a container.

The tragedy is millions miss something tremendous on the Lord's Day. It isn't that they do not go to worship, but they do not get anything from it. So many arise on Sunday morning very lazy, decide if they will or will not go, then hustle to make it, coming in late and frenzied then fidget until its over. Then, they rush away. It is little wonder they get little or nothing from worship.

People often get little out of worship because they put little in worship. Worship is participation, not spectation. You watch a play or opera but YOU worship. The preacher, teacher, song leader, etc. may lead the service but YOU worship. One can inspire another to loftier worship, but YOU still worship.

Worship is GIVING, yet not necessarily the contribution. You give your time. You plan to come, you reserve a time for worship. You expect something, you come for something. Worship then is action. Having come with a definite purpose and intention, then you can sing from the heart, pray and commit from the heart. Each aspect of worship is you expressing yourself to God.

Have you ever worshipped? Really tried to gain the most from simple worship? Do you leave inspired, forgiven and directed? Do you want to return? Worship to God transcends all other human experiences. Come to worship planning to get something out of it and you will.

*tp*

## *On The Lighter Side. . .*



**"HEY! WHEN HE WAS TALKIN'  
ABOUT NEEDIN' TO REPENT,  
WHY WAS HE LOOKIN' RIGHT  
AT ME?"**



## Annual Area Wide Singing



**Friday – April 24, 2026**

**7:00 p.m. to 8:30p.m.**

Refreshments served following the singing

### Special Announcement

Cissy Amos has made it known that she wants to “officially” be a member of our church family here in Center!  
**WELCOME TO THE FAMILY CISSY!!!**

**Sunday June 7, 2026**

Make your plans to be here and invite your friends and family to come and join us!



**Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

Make your plans to join us for our next “Wednesday Night Meal and singing” on April 29, 2026. We hope you will be here!

We extend our sympathy to the family of Thelma Hinton in her recent passing. Services were conducted Friday at White Rock Cemetery.

### OUR “CHURCH FAMILY”

Cissy Amos, Stanley Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Willis

### “EXTENDED FAMILY” AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) Leslie Adams (friend of Diedra Hughes) being treated for brain cancer; Peggy Baylor (Tim Bradshaw’s mother) Debra Clifton (friend of LaResa Livingston) Coleen Dickerson (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher’s brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate’s mother) Dot Grant (Friend of Debra Pate) Suzi Hogan (Mike Bostick’s sister-in-law) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins’ mother dealing with memory issues) Albert Magby (Melonie Bradshaw’s father) Karen McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher) Gene Perkins (Tim Perkins aunt) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate’s uncle); Heather Simmons Stewart (Friend of Cissy Amos ) cancer; Stephen Wiggins (preacher at San Augustine) Max Windham (Friend of LaResa Livingston) additional cancer treatments.

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

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## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

Reserve these dates for important events in the life of our Church for 2026

June 7, 2026 – “Friends and Family Day”  
September 13, 2026 – “Back To Church Sunday”  
December 6, 2026 – “No Excuse Sunday”  
December 20, 2026 – Annual Christmas Party

**Communion Preparation - April**  
Manny & Brittany Ortiz



## Across The Preacher's Desk

One of the most elusive things in our lives are friends. We might have some we consider to be our friends, yet, they later prove themselves to be what are known as "fair weather friends". When the going gets tough, often they are nowhere to be found. There is one friend who will never let us down and that is God.

When we turn to the word of God, we find a man who was known as a "friend of God". That is what James tells us about Abraham in James 2:23, he was "called the Friend of God". Have you ever thought about that? Have you ever considered what a high honor that was for Abraham?

Abraham believed God. Faith is something that must be present for us to be pleasing to God. The writer of Hebrews tells us in Hebrews 11:6 that without faith it is impossible to please God. Yet, Abraham did more than this. He obeyed God, he feared God and he had a deep concern for the lost.

With God there is no such thing as being a partial friend. There is no such thing as being an acquaintance. James also tells us in James 4:4 that the friendship of the world is enmity with God. That whosoever is a friend of the world is the enemy of God. The question we must ask ourselves is could it be said of us that we are the friend of God? Are we living our lives as friends of God or friends of the world?

*it's something to think about.....thp*

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
Will you?**