

## Chapter 2: Jesus and Us

### Paragraph 1

**“So that we could learn how to live with each other and with all of creation.”**

Jesus has transformed us in so many ways. He broke down barriers. Few, if any, of his contemporaries could have been born into a backwoods town under family controversy and ascend to rub elbows with the religious elites of the temple while simultaneously sharing food with outcasts, undesirables, sinners, people of other religions, and cultural enemies.

Fast forward 2,000 years to Washington D.C. and it would appear we have learned nothing. The National Cathedral is chastised by religious conservatives for hosting yoga classes in the sanctuary. I wonder if this was a demonstration of embracing new cultures into the church or merely another entrepreneur finding a way to profit in the Temple? Space is made for acceptance of diverse religious values at the same public theater camps where children are asked not to pray for fear of offending others. Politics, church, work, and community are all divided to an almost violent extent. Did Jesus fail to teach us how to live in harmony with our surroundings? Have we lost our respect for others and self?

Like the Lord's prayer taught us a system of prayer, Jesus taught us a system of respect. Jesus demonstrated compassion, healing everyone he encountered with the faith to receive his love. Jesus taught us conversations from his childhood; when his parents found him at the Temple talking to the priest. Jesus taught us fellowship with every meal he shared with friends, and strangers alike. Jesus taught us to not be wasteful with the gifts of God when he pulled his lunch directly from the wheatfield and his water directly from the well.

Harmony is what we lose when we fail to trust the future God is providing for us. We make enemies of our neighbors when we try to protect the things that only God can protect and gain the wealth only God can provide. Relationship is true wealth and the only thing Jesus really fought for. Relationship with each other is an out-flowing of our relationship with God. Jesus was THE example, we are HIS students and many of us need to get back into the classroom where we can learn together in harmony, respecting and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

God Bless,  
Kevin Saunders  
11-2-19