

My friend's dream - Jesus with the children, leaving to go search for her place.

Last week I had a great conversation with another friend, Terri Brown. We were talking about this reset we are in, as the Western church, and **what the true apostolic and prophetic foundation is**. And we came to the conclusion that it must be about the Body and it must be marked with humility and service to God of course, but to one another.

Ephesians 4

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds^[c] and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Our call is to mature into love, into service, into oneness with Him and one another.

Philippians 2

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,^[a] 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,^[b] 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,^[c] being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Our call of laying down our lives for one another, **comes from beholding His call and finished work**. Our call is His call. This will never change. This is where the life is.

We can see this again in Paul's endorsement of Timothy. The endorsement is not about Timothy's gifting, or anointing, per se, **the endorsement is about Timothy's love for the body**.

Philippians 2

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

There are lots of gifted people who care nothing for the sheep. There are lots of “prophetic” words that have done more to enslave people to some system of religion, having nothing to do with building up the body.

This understanding of coming together... of loving one another. Serving one another. Praying for one another, is the church.

As a leadership team, we have started praying and fasting together for you every Tuesday! We want to see you raised up into Christ. We want to see you come into full stature. Full manhood... full womanhood. We want to see true unity of the faith.

All of that being said, the only way to become is to behold. There is no other way. Jesus, beholding and communing with Jesus is the way. We won’t become by strategy meetings, and good ideas or programs. We are either filled and flowing with the life of Christ, or those parts of us without circulation must be pruned, and must be pruned for our health.

John 15

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

As Chris shared, we aren’t so much asking for “more of Christ.” he has given His whole self to us, and with Him came our Father, and the Holy Spirit. We didn’t get a piece, we got Him. We got them! What we are really asking is for Him to take more hold of us. To claim all of us, to come and heal all of the dark and untouched places of our lives.

Story about Arthur Burt: Who is waiting on whom? Are you waiting on God, or is He waiting on you?

So... As a church, we aren’t trying to build outward right now, we are saying yes to God building inward.

The foundation must be Christ, and Christ alone. Not our ideas of successful ministry. Not our ambitions to build a platform. The life of Christ flowing from within us and operating in real **hesed** love toward one another.

So... let’s behold our Jesus!

1. "Behold, I Bring Him Out to You"

John 19

4 Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.'

This first *behold* is a priestly moment, though Pilate doesn't know it. He presents Jesus to the people, proclaiming, "I find no fault in Him."

This is the language used when a lamb was inspected before Passover—examined and declared without blemish.

Pilate, in the irony of history, speaks as a priest presenting the spotless Lamb.

This moment says:

Look upon the One who is innocent... yet willing.

Look upon the One whom heaven approves... yet earth rejects.

Behold the Lamb of God.

2. "Behold the Man!"

John 19

5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, 'Behold the Man!'

Jesus is mocked, clothed in parody, crowned with thorns. And yet—**this is the image of true humanity.**

Here is Adam restored.

Here is the Man who does not accuse.

Here is the Man who suffers without retaliation.

Westcott called this a revelation of Christ, but also of us—

"What Christ is, and what He reveals men to be."

Behold the Man—

Wounded but not bitter,

Humble but not weak,

Rejected but radiant.

3. "Behold Your King!"

John 19:14

14 He said to the Jews, 'Behold your King!'

This is Pilate's final act of defiance against the crowd—but heaven again uses his words. This *behold* is not irony—it is **prophecy**.

This is your King. Not dressed in robes of glory,
but lifted high on the throne of the cross.

His rule is not by force,
but through self-giving love.
His crown is not gold, but thorns.
His scepter is not iron, but mercy.

The question remains for us:

Will we recognize Him?

Will we receive the rule of the Crucified One?

4. "Behold Your Son / Behold Your Mother"

John 19

26 When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!"

Westcott treats these two pronouncements as one act—a **moment of covenantal reordering**.

This is no sentimental farewell. This is Jesus **redefining family** around Himself.
Not by blood, but by the cross.
Not by biology, but by union.

Here, a new people is born.
Here, at the foot of the cross, the Church is formed.
Not a crowd. Not an organization. But a **family rooted in love**.

Behold your son.
Behold your mother.

The crucified Christ not only reconciles us to the Father—
He reconciles us to one another.

Conclusion: A People Who Behold

These four *beholds* follow a divine sequence:

These four *beholds* follow a divine sequence, each unveiling a deeper layer of revelation. First, we are called to **behold the Innocent One**—the spotless Lamb, brought before the people without fault. Then, we are invited to **behold the Man**—Jesus, the true image of humanity, crowned with thorns and robed in mockery, yet radiating dignity and love. Next, we hear the declaration, “**Behold your King**,” revealing a kingdom not of this world—one that comes through surrender, not force. Finally, we receive the most intimate *beholds*: “**Behold your son**” and “**Behold your mother**,” as Jesus, in the agony of the cross, forms a new covenantal family. Through these four calls, we see not only who Christ is—but who we are being formed to become.

Each call is not just a command—it’s a **conversion of sight**.
The cross is not only an event—it is a **lens**.

And still, the Spirit says:

Behold the Lamb.
Behold the Man.
Behold your King.
Behold your place in this family.

Ministry Moment:

As we close, I want to bring you back to that line from earlier:

“The only way to become... is to behold.”

You won’t become who you’re called to be through striving, or ambition, or even by having the right theology.

You will become by **beholding** the Lamb.

By fixing your gaze on the Innocent One.

By seeing the Man who was pierced, the King who gave Himself, the Savior who formed a family at the foot of His cross.

So the call today is not to try harder.

The call is to **see Him**.

To open the deep places of your life to His gaze, and to respond by giving Him all of you.

Some of us may need to **let go of ambition**, of religious striving, of the pressure to build something outward. He is building something **inward** in you.

Some of us are holding pain, or disconnection from the Body—**behold your family**. Let the cross reconcile you, not just to God, but to His people.

And for some, this is a moment to say:

THE GATHERING

Behold: The Way We Become

Leah Ramirez

Sunday, June 20, 2025

"Take more of me, Jesus. I've had all of You—now You can have all of me."

Let's come to the altar—not with answers, but with open eyes.

Let's behold the Lamb together.