

MY FAVORITE MISSIONARY

An Exploration of the Cross-Cultural
Encounters of Jesus Christ





By Scott Griswold

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You are invited to sit at the feet of the Greatest Missionary of all time.

Jesus invites you:

He left His family in heaven, crossed the Galactic Ocean, learned the language, and lived the culture of the people in His mission field. He poured His life into the Jewish people, touching, speaking, praying, loving them with all that He had. At the same time His heart was wide open to include everyone, reaching out to Romans, Samaritans, Canaanites, and other internationals living nearby. Jesus carefully prepared His disciples so He could set in motion a missionary movement that would eventually reach you. Why? He wanted to live with you for eternity. But not just you, He wants you to bring everyone you can. So He invites you to sit at His feet and look at His encounters with people of other cultures, so you can learn to be a better missionary, working at His side.

His disciples invite you:

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life ... that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full”
(1 John 1:1, 3-4).



Inspiration invites you:

“It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross” (*The Desire of Ages*, 83).

And I would like to invite you:

It has been my privilege to be a missionary in Southeast Asia with my family for sixteen years. I learned a lot from the Cambodian and Thai people. I learned so much from other missionaries. I still have so much more to learn about how to really care for people of other cultures. But the One I have learned the most from is my Master and Friend, Jesus Christ. The book *The Desire of Ages* helped me first fall in love with my Savior and has often brought me back to His feet. So I also invite you, with thirteen cross-cultural stories from Jesus’ life, a few thought-provoking questions, a glimpse into missionaries through the centuries, and some further inspiration from *The Desire Of Ages*, to sit at Jesus’ feet and learn some lessons from my favorite Missionary.

May you love Jesus more. May you gain more of His love for the Samaritans and Canaanites near you.

Scott Griswold

Pr. Scott Griswold

CHAPTER ONE

THE LONGEST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION

- 1. Read Luke 2:15-20.** Describe the circumstances and settings of Jesus' birth that are significant to you and why.
- 2. Read Philippians 2:5-8.** What really impresses you about Jesus' decision to become a human?
- 3.** In 1732, Leonard Dober and David Nitschmann, Moravians from Germany, were determined to share the gospel with slaves in the West Indies. After months of petitioning the Court of Denmark, they were permitted to depart for St. Thomas where Nitschmann served 11 months and Dober for two years. Dober saw four conversions by the time of his departure when more missionaries arrived to replace him.¹ Upon his return, he became the Chief Elder and served as the general manager of the Moravian foreign work. In the years that followed, Moravian missions expanded and grew. Converts in and around St. Thomas grew to many hundreds through the faithful efforts of later Moravian Missionaries.²

Read Hebrews 2:14-16. What did Jesus have to give up and what difficulties did He experience as He became a cross-cultural missionary to our earth?

4. What might you have to lose or change in order to reach out cross-culturally to people of other cultures and religions, even if they live close by?
5. **Read Philippians 2:5 again.** What do you want God to do in your heart and life today to make you more like Jesus, the Greatest Missionary?

TEXT TO MEMORIZE: PHILIPPIANS 2:5

FURTHER INSPIRATION

“The King of glory stooped low to take humanity. Rude and forbidding were His earthly surroundings....We marvel at the Saviour’s sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger, and the companionship of adoring angels for the beasts of the stall. Human pride and self-sufficiency stand rebuked in His presence. Yet this was but the beginning of His wonderful condescension. It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man’s nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin” (*The Desire of Ages*, 43, 48-49).

To find more treasures about this story, dig deep in *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 4, pages 43-49.

