

DEVOTIONAL SERIES
WINDOW TO HEAVEN
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Within the arc of our salvation story, there are thirty-three very significant years. Jesus comes to earth, becoming like us in order that we could become like Him. In this earthly sojourn, Jesus moves among people, eating, worshipping and praying with them. Frequently, these movements took Jesus to people that the institutional religion of the day rejects: lepers, tax collectors, prostitutes and Gentiles. Jesus' incarnation, His salvation, is for everyone—not just a select few.

Jesus is not physically among us anymore, and as He ascends to heaven, He invites His disciples to continue His ministry here on earth, to participate in bringing about God's Kingdom that changes the hearts and lives of those who hear the good news (Mark 1:15). This invitation continues today, as the church is called to be the hands and feet of Jesus that brings love, not just to each other, but to the margins.

Edward Borrett captures this invitation with lyrics that call each of us to live as windows to Heaven. While this invitation does involve using our words (or sharing the good news), it particularly calls us to live the good news; to live lives that radiate Jesus, that reveal the hope of Jesus who dwells in our hearts.

The hope of Jesus in our lives will vary between believers, but some indicators of Jesus' hope are: turning to God in prayer when faced with stress or a burden; finding joy in the middle of a very trying circumstance; holding lightly to ministry opportunities; living with peace in the unknown; extending forgiveness and grace to those who hurt us; or, crossing over to the margins to include those many exclude. Living with the hope of Jesus is not a checklist, it simply means living in a way that people notice a difference and want to be a part of that difference. St. Francis of Assisi understood this when he charged his followers to "preach by their deeds" (Rule of 1221).

The beautiful secret within living this life of hope is that they are not lived in our own strength. As we live our lives for Jesus, Jesus dwells in us with the hope of His glory (Colossians 1:27). In this way, we will all be able to be windows to Heaven.

*Let me live as a window to Heaven.
Let Your church be a sign
Of Your glorious vict'ry,
Of the Master's design.*