We are to come to Jesus Christ every day and in the many moments of each day.

Coming to Jesus is a simple thing in our hearts.

* It requires faith
* It requires humility
* It requires trust

However, we substitute the simplicity of coming to Him with other things.

**We avoid** coming to Jesus in the moments of our day.

* The flesh does not want to come to Christ.
* We have substitutions for Christ Himself.

Our substitutions for coming to Him require no dying, yet they provide the illusion of being spiritual or religious**. Our substitutions allow us to stay in control.**

**Common Substitutions for coming to Christ in the moments of our day:**

**Various forms of Legalism**

* A focus on doing good things
* A focus on living right before God
* A focus on making good choices
* A focus on avoiding what is evil or wrong
* A focus on changing or improving (either outward behaviors or inner attitudes).

Lk 15:17-20 But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! 'I will get up and **go to my father**, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men. So he got up **and came to his father**. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

\*Instead of working on any of the list above, he just came to His father.

**Spiritual Concepts**

* Spiritual concepts are not Jesus Christ, although they may be “about” Him.
* We replay in our minds and hearts things He has shown us in the past or things we’ve seen about Him. As opposed to who He is right now and what He is showing you in this moment. (old manna breeds worms).
* We try to “work” spiritual methods or truths within ourselves – instead of just coming to Him.
* “Things” that have worked in the past will not work today. Only He has life and wisdom for what you need today. Your heart needs something new things for today, not yesterday’s manna. Come to Him.

Matt 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

**Music**

* Singing certain songs that were life giving yesterday are not the same as Christ Himself. Come to Him first and let Him put songs in your heart.

**Scripture and Truth**

* We can study scripture and yet not come to Him in our hearts.
* Jesus separated Himself from the scriptures

Jn 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

* Filling our thoughts and hearts with truth alone is not coming to Christ who is the source of life.
* Christ is the truth. Come to Him first and then you will know truth.
* Faith is not the same as a concept.

**Self-Production of Various Emotions**

* Reproducing certain feelings or emotions is not coming to Christ.
* Love, Joy, Peace, etc are “fruits” or by-products of the Spirit.
* Feelings are a result. If they are your focus you will miss the Lord Himself and never connect with Him.
* You cannot want “to feel Christ” more than you want Jesus Christ Himself.

**Focusing on God Changing our Situation or Circumstance**

* If you do this you set yourself up for a life of disappointment in God and losing your faith
* We add to the gospel of what He promised by doing this. He never promised to change your circumstances, rather He promises suffering, persecution, and trials in this life. God is not your Santa Clause.
* We are not to trust Him “that” or “for” unless He speaks these things to us
* Our trust in Him is “general” in our hearts. We are trusting in Him and who He is as a good Father, not in the specifics that we want Him to do for us.

**Lifestyles and Misc.**

* Christians love to occupy their minds and hearts with Christian lifestyle ideas and feel justified in doing so.
* Gardening, living in community, living debt free, end time conspiracy, bible prophecy, fixing your marriage, raising better kids, home schooling, etc are all good “things” but are not to become a substition for coming to Christ Himself in the moments of our day.

**Submission to His Lordship in a love exchange is our primary heart posture**

* Return often to Him and Him alone in the moments of your day
* Give up your rights. Give up all control.
* Submit to His authority over you
* Receive His love for you.
* Love Him back with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

**Forget this entire teaching and come to Him!**

* Trust Him to bring back to remembrance all you need to know in each moment.
* Trust His life in you to keep you on the straight and narrow – don’t work on this yourself.
* Trust Him to let you know what you need to do or think about each day.
* Let go to His Spirit in complete surrender in the depths of your heart all day long.