

# Truth #1

## Here is a Place by Me



When reading, have you ever had words *pop off the page*? Suddenly without warning words among so many others seem to stand out and get your attention. Sometimes, they are words that bring laughter. Other times, the words prick our hearts. Sometimes words bring wonder and amazement.

Such was the case when I read Exodus 33:21, "*And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock."* (NKJV) The first six words, "*Here is a place by Me,*" leaped off the page. These words are found in a familiar passage of scripture. They're in the story of Moses being hidden in the cleft of the rock as the glory of God passed by.

When my oldest child, Chris, was in kindergarten, I visited his school for field day. A day filled with outdoor games and activities. Normally because of my job, I could not attend a lot of school functions held during the day. However, I had made a special effort to not only attend, but also to be a volunteer parent. Chris was so excited. Later that afternoon, in an effort to settle the younger children, Chris' teacher decided to show a movie back in her classroom. "*Here, Mom, sit by me!*" Chris called out to me. He snuggled up against me, so proud that his mom had come.

"*Here is a place by Me*" the Lord says. It's an invitation, simple and to the point. "*Come where I am. Come and dwell in the place that I've prepared for you. Come and allow Me to sit you upon a firm foundation: the Rock, Christ Jesus.*"

Now we are not speaking of an invitation given by a man, but by God! **He's a perfect God who wants a relationship with imperfect man.** "*Here is a place by me*" the Lord says. Can you hear Him calling? It's amazing to think about and to ponder that He would extend to each of us such a kind invitation; but He did; and He continues to do so. I like the way The Message bible translates this passage:

### **Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)**

<sup>28</sup> "*Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest.* <sup>29</sup> *Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.* <sup>30</sup> *Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.*"

If you're longing for that kind of place in your life, may I encourage you to give your life to Christ? "*Here is a place by Me*", the Lord says and all you have to do is accept Him as your personal Savior. Pray and ask the Lord to forgive you of your sins, believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and you will be saved.

If you've accepted Him as your Savior but the busyness and pressures of life have caused you to not commit to time spent with Him, stop now and ask the Lord for forgiveness. Pray and ask him to restore to you the joy of your salvation and discover again times of refreshing in the presence of the Lord!

Either way, you'll be able to accept His invitation when He says, "*Here is a place by Me.*"

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