

# Jesus Changes Everything

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Sunday Sermon: **April 20, 2025**



Jesus really does change everything. Jesus is the Head of the Church, transcending any denomination, affiliation, or worship style preference. Jesus was betrayed, arrested, falsely accused, condemned to death, tortured to death in public, then raised to life again. We worship and serve a Living King. *That* is the heart of the story of Christianity. It's about our living Lord, Savior, and King, and what makes someone a Christ-follower is choosing to believe those truths. It's more than keeping rules or codes of conduct. It's more than cathedrals, systematic theology, or Bible translations. It's a very personal decision about a Person named Jesus of Nazareth and the place you give Him in your life. Jesus' resurrection gives us the promise of an entirely new kind of life and a power and an authority at work in us that is so great, it can even conquer death. It's the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Church, we have been delivered from the destructive kingdom of darkness and brought into the Kingdom of the Son where we can have transforming life. That is why Jesus changes everything!

***"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear."*** John 16:12

## Fear & Disappointment

John 20:1–2 *Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"*

John 20:10–16 *Then the disciples went back to their homes, <sup>11</sup> but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. <sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"*

*"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).*

- Share a time in your life when your faith and trust in the Lord impacted your confidence and fear.

## Hopeless(ness) & Despair

John 20:19–22 *On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

1 Peter 1:3–4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you.*

- How can a Christ-centered perspective on life positively influence the experience of grief?

- What are some ways a spirit of despair can manifest itself in our lives or the lives of others?

## LET'S PROCLAIM:

**I RENOUNCE THE SPIRIT OF DESPAIR, IN JESUS' NAME. I AM NOT HOPELESS, AND MY CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT HOPELESS. I HAVE A LIVING HOPE—HIS NAME IS JESUS. HE IS THE CHRIST, MY KING, AND MY LORD. I AM FILLED WITH JOY, PURPOSE, AND I KNOW GOD HAS GOOD THINGS PLANNED FOR ME SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD.**

## Thomas invited forward—discouragement (without courage)

John 20:24–28 *Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”*

## Peter—denial, failed as a friend

John 21:15–19 *When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” <sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”*

- What does it mean to deny Jesus?
- How are you personally impacted by Peter's experience of denying Jesus and his restoration?

## Kingdom Lessons & a promised “Helper”

Acts 1:3–5 *After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> ... while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

- In what ways has the Holy Spirit helped you overcome obstacles or challenges in your life?

## Adversaries & Advocates (life with tension between good & evil)

Acts 5:17–21 *Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. <sup>18</sup> They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. <sup>19</sup> But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. <sup>20</sup> “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.” <sup>21</sup> At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles.*

- What role can a community of believers play in encouraging and supporting our faith walk?

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the truth of Your Word and its authority in our lives. Thank You for the freedom that is ours in the name of Jesus. Through the blood of Jesus, we have been delivered out of the hand of the enemy. Through the blood of Jesus, all our sins have been forgiven. Through the blood of Jesus, all of Satan's claims against us have been canceled. We've been justified—made righteous. We've been sanctified—set apart for the purposes of God. Fear, despair, and discouragement must go, in Jesus' name! Its authority over our lives is broken. Thank You that, through the blood of Jesus, where we've struggled with guilt, shame, and rejection, we are now accepted by the Most High God. We have a new future secured by our King, and the joy of the Lord is a living hope within us. We praise You for it! In Jesus' matchless name, amen.