

# JESUS, He changes everything

## I. Preamble

### A. Factoring Jesus in your life

- Either—Jesus changes everything for us in our lives
- Or—Jesus changes nothing for us in our lives
- Factoring Jesus into our life is no halfway proposition
- It's either all or not at all
- I would like to illustrate with one person's experience

### B. One person's experience – the Roman Centurion

- Let's go to Golgotha—to Calvary
- Observe the sundial as you prepare to pass through the eastern gate to the carnage
- The hour of 3:00 is approaching...
- There are massive dark clouds that have blotted out the mid-afternoon sun
- As we pass through the gates a massive bolt of lightning flashes and the subsequent thunder rolls
- A wind from the east sweeps up the slopes of the Judean hills—stirring dust and loose leaves
- There we are, we are only a few hundred yards from the place and we close to within 50 yards
- We see the stricken face of the criminal in the middle—wide-eyed we look on as the soldiers are going to check each condemned man
- They have checked each of those on either side—now they turn to him in the middle
- As they do, we watch as the lead, centurion soldier looks up and at that moment, the criminal in the middle lets forth a desperate cry—*“Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit!”*
- No sooner are these words spoken and the man hangs his head and as he does the earth begins to shake
- Shakes like it can and does where we live, but this shaking causes large rocks nearby to split in two
- We do what we've been trained to do here in Southern California—duck, and run for our closets triangle spot
- But then, everything grows still, the wind ceases and we look and discover the man in the middle is dead
- He died after saying, *“Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit!”*
- Our hearts are moved, we just saw someone die—right before our eyes!
- Then we listen as the lead, centurion soldier holds his hand over his own heart in a worshipful stance and exclaims—*“Surely this man was righteous, he truly was the Son of God!”*
- Stunned! We recoil at what he has just said...did we just watch an innocent man die?
- We were just passing through—it was only curiosity that brought us here—a happenstance

- Now, we're shaken like the earth was—did we just witness the most significant event, not just of our lives, but of all time?
  - An innocent man, a son of man, but also, the Son of God dying as a condemned criminal?
  - We can't take our eyes off of the Roman Centurion—we listen in as perhaps those words spoken will lead to other words
  - And they do—he's talking to his men and he is ordering them to break the other criminals legs—they're still living, night will come soon and they must not be allowed to escape somehow...
  - But then as the Centurion turns again to the one in the middle, we hear him say perhaps these words—we're not completely sure, and we don't want to get too close to this delicate scene
  - But he says, "I died when you died—something in me broke, I am still breathing, my heart is still beating...but *this* your death, changes everything—I will never be the same
  - He's talking to Him, but there's no response, cause He is dead, but he is confessing his own death!
- C. Prayer** – Lord God, we have come to worship You in spirit and in truth. Take us where we have never gone before—so when we get there, we will never want to return. AMEN

## II. Message

### A. Climax of Week Four of the 40 Days

- Today, April 28<sup>th</sup> is the climax of week four of the 40 days
- Forty days of prayer and devotion in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ
- For 28 days we have daily been coming to the Cross
- And we've learned this week the following: We need—
  - a. To be changed from non-therapeutic (lukewarm) to therapeutic (hot and/or cold)
  - b. To effectively work and impress the hearts of others by our prayers
  - c. To impact the lives of those around us with good things
  - d. To move beyond beginning prayers, occasional Bible study and a victory here and there
  - e. To walk in a way we have never walked before
  - f. For sin's power to be permanently broken
- We need a change, a new condition in these beings of ours
- We need Jesus to enter us with His victorious life!
- We need to invite Him inside for keeps!
- How do we do this?
- How does Jesus, who changes everything, change everything in us?
- First off, we don't do any of this
- Jesus does it in us

### B. When Death becomes a Victory

- Jesus begins this work in us when we embrace His death on Calvary as our own death
- Just like the Roman Centurion did, so must we
- Story—Imagine with me how that Sabbath, when Jesus lay in the tomb went down
- The Jewish leaders were taking no chances
- They rushed to Pilate and requested a seal and a guard be set over the tomb—where Jesus’ had been laid
- The Roman Centurion was perhaps called in on this too
- And wouldn’t you know, early resurrection morning, could it be?
- Perhaps the Centurion is present as well to see Jesus’ resurrection
- Seeing Jesus come forth alive—just imagine, death and now life
- Jesus’ death and life were something this man would believe in for the rest of his earthly life
- But *the reality is this*—this truth of Jesus’ death and resurrection is that which changes everything for everyone who believes in Him! AMEN
- Take our Scripture Lesson in Romans 6:6-11 MSG

*“Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer at sin’s every beck and call! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ’s sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That’s what Jesus did.”*

- Jesus’ death did not look anything like a victory—but it’s exactly why Jesus came to this earth
- So his death happened on purpose, for a very important reason
- His resurrection happened on purpose, for a very important reason
- His death and resurrection occurred so that the power of the sinful nature could be broken
- Why, Jesus, he changes everything!
  - a. He said “Yes” to the Father and “No to the Devil
  - b. He said “Yes” to you and me and “No” to himself
- His victory was over—
  - A. Sin—facing temptation of every imaginable type, yet without sin, so much as in thought
  - B. Self—not my will Father, but Yours be done
  - C. Satan—the ruler of this world has nothing in me

### **C. What happens when Jesus’ victory becomes ours**

- What does Jesus’ victory mean?
- TEXT: Romans 6:12-14 MSG

*“That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don’t give it the time of day. Don’t even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you’ve been raised from the dead!—into God’s way of doing things. Sin can’t tell you how to live. After all, you’re not living under that old tyranny any longer. You’re living in the freedom of God.”*

- God’s way of doing things requires that we begin to think and act like God would
- How does that happen?
- Watch this—Since Christ’s mind was filled with pure, holy, virtuous thoughts.
- If we ask Christ to live in us through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and if we believe He does, and if we believe He will reveal His love—His pure, holy, virtuous thoughts in our minds
- He will do just that—it’s a matter of faith
- TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 NLT (Read)
- The old life is gone; a new life has begun
- How do we succeed at this new life in Christ?

### **III. Application**

#### **A. Jesus show us**

- Time travel with me back to a day when Jesus had been alone; sitting at Jacob’s well outside the town of Samaria
- He had been visiting with a Samaritan woman—when he asked her for a drink of water
- She replied in John 4:9—“”You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”
- Awkward—we aren’t supposed to be speaking to each other, let alone you being a man and me a woman
- But Jesus rises above the political, gender properness, saying, in verse 10 of John 4: *“If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”*
- Practical thinking, she comes back
  - a. You don’t have a rope or a bucket
  - b. This well is deep
  - c. Where would you get this living water?
  - d. Who do you think you are? Greater than Jacob?
  - e. Jacob and his sons can be beat with this well they dug
- There, take them apples! She must have thought
- But with Jesus! He what? He (pause) changes everything!
- Verse 13 of John 4—*“Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”*
- Uh! Uh! “Give me this water!” I will take an extra helping of that living water! I won’t have to come here and draw this water very often at all, if I do!

- Jesus always takes us to the next level—“Go and get your husband.”
- Don’t just get some yourself, share it with someone close to you!
- And she replied, “I don’t have a husband.”
- Well, Jesus replied, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband—for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!”
- My, Jesus knew all about her...you know what? Jesus know all about you and me!
- Oh friend, Jesus’ victory is waiting to take off in your life
- Jesus’ victory is waiting to make an impact in your life—what it going to be?
- Is there—
 

a. Darkness	e. Stubborn stains	i. Rejection	m. Loneliness
b. Problems	f. Fears	j. Unknowns	n. Abandonment
c. Failures	g. Anger	k. Discouragement	o. Trapped
d. Evil	h. Depression	l. Hopelessness	p. Pride

**B. The time is here now—worship Him in spirit and in truth**

- The woman tried to get Jesus off the subject of *her*—have you tried the same with Jesus?
- But Jesus brought it back as He always does, to the “time is here now”
- God wants you to worship him in spirit and in truth
- And the woman: “Oh we will when the one who is called Christ comes, he will explain everything to us!”
- Jesus then, with passion made the most amazing proclamation from his own lips—“I AM the Messiah!”
- Jesus, He changes everything, because He is the I AM:
  - a. I AM the burning in the burning bush
  - b. I AM the light of the world
  - c. I AM the bread of life
  - d. I AM the resurrection and life
  - e. I AM the Messiah, One sent of God

**C. Jesus—the new vehicle**

- It’s time, the time is here now to take Jesus completely into our own lives
- Like changing vehicles, cars, you and I need to stop trying Jesus only half-way and go all the way
- I saw yesterday that a neighbor of mine had bought a new vehicle, a new Cadillac
- Before he bought it, he parked both his cars in the garage
- Now, only the Cadillac is inside—the other vehicle is parked curbside

- This is the way we must be with Jesus—bringing Jesus inside completely with the help of the Holy Spirit

#### IV. Close

##### A. How Jesus Changes Everything

- So how does Jesus change everything—?
- TEXT: John 14:16-18 – Jesus said, *“I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter...he dwells with you, and shall be in you, I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”*
- Every day as it begins we must invite the Holy Spirit to enter
- As he enters he will bring the living, resurrected Christ inside of us
- With Jesus living in you, you have His mind
- TEXT: 1 Corinthians 2:16 – *“For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.”*
- With Jesus living in you, you have His mind
- We have Jesus’ love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance—all the fruit of the Spirit
- So with Jesus living in us by way of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we have what He favors and reject what He would reject
- We have what are His thoughts, His forgiveness—every virtue of Christ is in you through Christ abiding in you!
- So how does the Christian go about applying this truth?
- Five steps, found on page 91 in our 40 Day Book provide us the way
- But let’s permit Jesus to outline it as He spoke to the woman

**1<sup>st</sup> – Come see a man who told me everything I ever did!** (Jesus knows everything you have ever done; and He knows everything you will ever do going forward.)

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Believe in the fresh, bubbling spring within you from the Holy Spirit** (Start drinking every day going forward of the Holy Spirit.)

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Believe Jesus is in you, with His thoughts, His desires, His forgiveness** (The Samaritans said to woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves—He is indeed the Savior of the world.”)

**4<sup>th</sup> – Believe that Jesus will reveal himself according to your need** (Focus on Jesus! The temptation will flee!)

**5<sup>th</sup> – Thank Him for the deliverance he has just given** (Prayer –Lord, it’s true all our lives we’ve let sin tell us what to do. But thank you God we’ve started listening to a new master, one whose commands set us free to live openly in freedom. So we offer ourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. Hallelujah! AMEN)

#### V. Prayer