



SERMON: 40 Days of Discipleship – “*Jesus is Life*”

Watch [this week's sermon](#)

Read [Matthew 28:1-7](#) – “The Resurrection”

- When you picture these women coming to the tomb at dawn, what emotions or expectations do you imagine they were carrying with them? What part of this scene grabs your attention first? What stands out to you about how quickly everything changes in this moment?
- The angel tells them not to be afraid and announces that Jesus is risen, turning a place of death into a place of hope. What does this reveal about the kind of power Jesus has? How does this passage challenge the tendency to keep Easter at a distance as only a tradition or religious event? Where do you most need the reality of the risen Jesus to interrupt fear, grief, or distraction in your life?
- The women are invited to come and see, then to go and tell, and on the way they actually meet the risen Jesus for themselves. What do you notice about the movement from hearing about Jesus to encountering him personally? How does this connect to the sermon's challenge not to minimize Jesus or keep him at arm's length? What might it look like for the resurrection to become more of a defining moment in your actual life story instead of just something you say you believe?
- When the women see Jesus, they run to him, take hold of his feet, and worship him, and from that moment they cannot go back to life as it was before. What does their response show about who Jesus is and what he deserves? Where is Jesus inviting you not just to believe in him but to follow him with your whole life? What would it look like this week to make more room on the “piece of paper” of your life for the risen Jesus to be central?

Read [Romans 6:5](#) – “Sin's Power Is Broken”

- Romans 6:5 speaks about being united with Jesus in both his death and his resurrection. What do you think stands out most in that promise? How does that move Easter from being just something Jesus experienced to something that also reaches you? What questions or reactions does that bring up for you?
- Pastor Mike said the resurrection is not just a past event to admire but a reality that meets us right where we live. How does this verse help make that connection? What does it mean to you that your sin and death are not just managed but joined to Jesus and overcome through him? Where are you tempted to keep that truth abstract instead of personal?
- This verse says that if we are joined to Jesus in a death like his, we will most certainly be joined to him in a resurrection like his. How does that speak to shame, fear, or the parts of your life that feel dead or stuck right now? How does this connect to the sermon's promise that Jesus wants to raise us from spiritual numbness and not just forgive us from a distance? Where do you most need resurrection hope to become real in your life now, not just someday?

- If you really believed you were united with the crucified and risen Jesus, how might that reshape the way you think about your identity and your future? What would it look like to stop carrying what Jesus has already put to death for you? How might living as someone joined to Jesus in both death and resurrection change the way you follow him this week?

Read [John 14:6](#) – “Jesus, the Way to the Father”

- When Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” which part of that statement catches your attention most right now? Why do you think Jesus speaks this personally rather than just giving advice or ideas? What does this verse stir up in you as you hear it?
- Pastor Mike said Jesus does not want to be just a religious part of your life but your life. How does this verse support that claim? What is the difference between treating Jesus as a helpful influence and receiving him as the way, the truth, and the life? Where do you most feel the pull to make Jesus one important thing among many instead of the center?
- Jesus does not say he shows a way or teaches a truth or offers a life, but that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. What does that reveal about who Jesus claims to be? How does this connect to the sermon’s insistence that Jesus is not just a trend, a moral teacher, or a religious leader, but someone who changes everything? What part of your life is hardest to fully hand over to a Jesus who leads instead of follows you?
- If Jesus really is the way, the truth, and the life, then following him is about more than agreeing with him at arm’s length. What would it look like for you to follow him more fully in your actual daily life this week? Where might he be calling you to stop asking him to fit into your story and instead let him rewrite it? What would it mean to go more all in with Jesus rather than leaving him on the edges of your life?

Read [Matthew 28:18-20](#) – “The Great Commission”

- When you hear Jesus say that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him, what stands out to you most about that claim? How is that different from the kind of authority people usually claim or try to hold onto? What reactions does that stir up in you?
- Pastor Mike emphasized that Jesus is not just someone to believe in at arm’s length but someone to follow. How does this passage push beyond private belief into a life of obedience and mission? What do you notice about the connection between Jesus’ authority and his command to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach? Where do you see the temptation to settle for admiration of Jesus instead of surrender to him?
- The sermon returned again and again to the truth that Jesus is not a trend or a religious add-on, but the risen Lord who changes everything. How does this passage reinforce that bigger view of who Jesus is? What does it look like to live as though the risen Jesus really has authority over every part of your “piece of paper” life story? Where might he be calling you to follow his lead more fully instead of keeping control for yourself?
- Jesus ends by promising, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age,” which Pastor Mike connected back to Emmanuel, God with us. How does that promise strengthen the call to follow him all in? Who in your life might Jesus be inviting you to help disciple, encourage, or point toward him? What is one concrete step you could take this week to live more like someone who is sent by the risen Jesus and never goes alone?

APPLICATION: Pick one to put into practice this week.

1. **Make room on the paper:** Set aside 10 quiet minutes this week with a blank sheet of paper. Write your name in the middle, then fill the page with the things that currently define your life, your attention, your worries, your hopes, your schedule, your identity. Then circle what has been most central lately and ask, "Does this show that Jesus is life for me, or just one part of life?" End by writing "**He is risen for me**" somewhere on the page and name one change you want to make so Jesus is more central in your actual daily life.
2. **Stop carrying what Jesus already crucified:** Identify one specific burden you have been carrying that Pastor Mike named, shame, guilt, fear, numbness, or a sense of spiritual deadness. Write it down, then pray through Romans 6:5 and explicitly hand that burden over to Jesus by name. Each day this week, when it comes back, answer it with a short truth such as, "**This was taken to the cross with Jesus**" or "**I am joined to the risen Christ.**" Let resurrection truth interrupt the old pattern instead of just managing it.
3. **Go all in in one concrete area:** Choose one part of your life where Jesus has mostly been kept at arm's length, your schedule, a relationship, your work, a habit, your thought life, or an area of delayed obedience. Ask, "**What would following Jesus here actually look like this week?**" Then take one visible step that matches your answer, such as initiating a needed conversation, reordering a priority, confessing a sin, serving someone intentionally, or beginning a daily time of prayer and Scripture. Do not make it abstract. Pick one action and do it as a way of moving from belief about Jesus to following Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS & QUESTIONS

View this week's [Daily Bible Readings](#)

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Matthew 28:11-15 | Matthew 28:16-18 | Matthew 28:19-20 | Mark 1:1-13 | Mark 1:14-20 |

Monday, April 6: Matthew 28:11-15

1. In this passage the guards tell the truth to the religious leaders, but the leaders choose money, control, and a false story instead. What does that reveal about how people can resist Jesus even when the evidence is right in front of them, and where do you see that same temptation to protect comfort or control rather than face what is true?
2. The resurrection of Jesus is so powerful in this scene that his enemies do not really disprove it, they just try to cover it up. What does this show about who Jesus is and the kind of authority he has, and how might this challenge the ways people still try to explain him away, minimize him, or avoid responding to him?

Tuesday, April 7: Matthew 28:16-18

1. When the disciples see the risen Jesus, they worship him, but some of them still doubt. How does that honest mix of worship and hesitation help you think about your own faith, and what does it show about the kind of people Jesus continues to meet and call?
2. Jesus says that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him. What do you think that means in real life, not just as a church statement, and where are you most tempted to live as if someone or something else has more authority than Jesus?

Wednesday, April 8: Matthew 28:19-20

1. Jesus sends his followers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them to obey all he has commanded. What stands out to you about the size and scope of that calling, and how does it challenge any tendency to think of following Jesus as private, passive, or mainly about personal belief?
2. Jesus does not just give a mission, he also gives a promise: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." How does that promise shape the way you hear the command to go, and where do you most need to trust that Jesus' presence is enough for whatever obedience he is asking of you right now?

Thursday, April 9: Mark 1:1-13

1. Mark begins fast, calling this "the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God," then immediately moves into the wilderness, repentance, baptism, and temptation. What kind of King does

Jesus seem to be from the very beginning, and how does this opening challenge expectations that God's work should look safer, easier, or more impressive?

2. In this passage Jesus is announced by the Father as beloved, anointed by the Spirit, and then driven into the wilderness to face Satan. What does that sequence reveal about identity, spiritual struggle, and obedience, and where might it challenge the assumption that God's love should always lead to comfort instead of testing, trust, and deeper formation?

Friday, April 10: Mark 1:14-20

1. Right after John is arrested, Jesus begins announcing that the kingdom of God has come near and calling people to repent and believe the Good News. What stands out to you about the timing and tone of his message, and how does it challenge the idea that God only works when circumstances feel stable, safe, or favorable?
2. Jesus calls ordinary fishermen to leave their nets and follow him, and they respond immediately. What do you think they were leaving behind and stepping into in that moment, and where might Jesus be inviting you to trust him with a next step of obedience that feels costly, unclear, or disruptive?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Daily devotions](#)
- Podcasts:
 - [Pastor Mike Drop!](#)
 - ["Gospel" – Word with Webb podcast](#)
- Videos:
 - [BibleProject - Mark](#) (video 1)
 - [BibleProject – Mark](#) (video 2)
- Articles:
 - ["What are the Gospels?" by Tim Mackie \(BibleProject\)](#)

