

Easter 2023

JESUS OUR DELIVERER - Jesus Revolution

04/09/23

// Introduction Ideas

Briefly mention the 3 main points from WK1

Last week our service was cancelled bc we had no electricity and I want to intro the theme of this month briefly ..

■ The JESUS REVOLUTION changed so many lives as God's Spirit, which is God's voice on the earth, was inviting people to come to Jesus, give Him their stress, their addictions, their regrets and exchange them for perfect peace.

Many churches like Chuck Smith didn't know what to do with all these hippies with no shoes and bad BO, they looked bad, they smelled bad and it forced thousands of church-going Christians to discover if they were truly becoming like Jesus or not. If they were becoming like Jesus then they were glad to welcome these curious people into their church - body odor and all.

If they weren't and many weren't actually letting God change their heart, they refused these curious hippies. Why? They didn't realize their need for Jesus. They thought their church attendance, the way they dressed, the home they grew up in... those things is what made them "right"

So many people in America believe they are self made man and that their good deeds are more than their bad ones they don't need a Savior.

When Jesus read from the Book of Isaiah in His hometown of Nazareth and calmed that HE was the fulfillment of the prophecy - that HE was bringing the favor of the Lord - that He was the Messiah there to set them free from their sin - they didn't believe it - many of them anyway. They were too hung up on their family's heritage and pedigree and didn't think they needed a Savior.

■ Mark 2:17

When Jesus heard it He said to them "Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

■ The Jesus Revolution was remarkable only 5 decades ago. Millions came to Christ and another Jesus Revolution is happening in our day! Millions of people around the world are admitting their need for God and turning to JESUS, His Son!

■ Time Magazine

Time Magazine would write about the hundreds of young hippies giving their life to Jesus and being baptized in the water every single weekend. They were giving up their chase for meaning in life in chasing drugs and sex and admitting their need.

Many people think and live like the rich young ruler mentioned here:

 **Luke 10:25-37**

Sadly this young ruler walked away after being told he had to also give all his money to the poor. Why? Jesus knew that this was his idol - his money - his prestige - his reputation.

But the “law” or the response Jesus gave was accurate and hasn’t changed - no matter who you are!

Simply respond the love of God and love Him in return. “Love the Lord with all your heart, all you mind, your emotions, all of you!”

Did you know what GOD wants for you isn’t that complicated?


He wants you to receive His love - to calm the storms in your life - and you to simply love and trust Him - to worship Him. That’s it!

ONLY GOD created a way for us to be forgiven!

 **1 Peter 1:3-5**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- The message of Palm Sunday, last week is a message about disruptions – Jesus rides into Jerusalem to fanfare, cheers, celebration, and excitement. But that’s only part of the story. While in Jerusalem Jesus causes quite a stir
- Here is what Jesus did while in Jerusalem prior to his capture and crucifixion
 - Jesus disrupts the temple by turning over the tables
 - Jesus teaches & heals much to the frustration of the religious and political leaders

- Jesus confronts the religious leaders of the day about their teaching
 - Turning Tables
 - I've noticed a trend lately in Christian community - when it comes to people pointing out the sins of others that often are assumed by the way and certainly not blatant - they do this public yelling on social media or on a podcast then they'll say "Jesus turned tables over and I'm just turning tables too"
 - Well yes He did that ONCE but that's because He was so grieved that His father's house was simply a market for people to selling pigeons and fabric and the goal was for people to make money there instead of pray and worship and invite people into God's presence. Jesus did this ONCE that we know of - AND He cried tears of empathy FIRST before going. Here's what I want to say  **"Jesus ate dinner with sinners at many more tables than those He flipped over."**
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- Jesus's ministry was a series of disruptions to show the world there is a better way.
 - A person cannot have an encounter with Jesus and not be challenged in their heart to change – A transformed life is guaranteed as a follower of Jesus. – The closer you get to him and align your life with his the more he transforms you.
 - By nature, being around Jesus changes us. People had their lives disrupted by Jesus and were changed for the better.

- Blind Bartimaeus

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.

⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁸ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is

calling you.” ⁵⁰ And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ And Jesus said to him, “What do you want

me to do for you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” ⁵² And Jesus said to him, “Go your

way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

The Blind Man

Do you realize your need for Jesus?

Escape Room ILL

Intro - How many of you have ever been to or at the very least heard of an escape room? You pay money to get locked up with a group of people who you then have to work with to solve clues, puzzles and riddles to escape in a certain amount of time. Sometimes they even handcuff you together. I promise you go do an escape room with a group of your friends/family and you will learn so much about them - Someone is always the take charge person, then you have the “its ok guys, we don't have to take it so serious” person You have the person who thinks they know all the answers - You have the person who keeps the time and keeps reminding everyone “We’re not going to make it” There's always some sort of drama - We need to go this way, No we need to go that way etc... It's a fun time I promise.

The point of an Escape Room is you guessed it, to Escape - You are locked down and trapped and given the illusion that there is no way out. Can I tell you this morning that the enemy tries

to do the same thing with us - maybe not physically but most definitely in our minds. He tries to trap us (the Bible references it as a snare) in our sin and tries to convince us that we don't have any way to get out.

He's been doing that to people for thousands of years. As we get into our message this morning I want to give you some good news right up front - Jesus provides you a way out. He is our Great Deliverer.

 // **Jesus came to deliver us from sin and bondage.**

1 John 3:4 - Declares that sin is lawlessness, essentially it is anything that violates God's law in scripture. We are all guilty of sin - Romans say we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But God provided a way OUT!

 **John 8:12 / 8:31-36 - Our freedom from sin is only made possible by what Jesus did for us on the cross.**

¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

 **Movie Clip – Baptism Scene** *"The Raging Stopped"* 1 min 57 seconds

Personal story - feeling hopeless or lost

Storms are a part of all of our lives - some storms are fun to watch, or even listen to. One of my most favorite things to do in the summer is listen to a thunderstorm roll in. It's very peaceful to go to sleep - But when storms are really bad, they create fear, hopelessness, a sense that what I'm experiencing is going to be the end of me - Sin and the issues of life do the same things on a spiritual level. They leave us feeling hopeless, fearful, like there is no way out. Can I just say... BUT JESUS

 // Main Point #2 **Jesus paid the debt that we ourselves couldn't pay.**

Expound
WE couldn't save ourselves!

God says to the people of Israel in the Old Testament "**I will deliver** you from slavery in Egypt!"

God promises to save us when we admit our need for Him and turn from our sin.

The people of Israel were not able to save themselves from Pharaoh and his slavery. God stepped in! We talked about this at our Passion service this week right.

The people of Israel could do NOTHING about their situation.
They were trapped.

They were enslaved, forced to work non-stop making bricks in the heat of the sun, all to advance Pharaoh's agenda.

God promised to deliver them and He did!

He gave 10 plagues, each a threat until Pharaoh finally gave him and

Joshua 21:45 Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 1:20 "No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'yes' in Christ. And so through Him the "amen" to the glory of God."

Exodus 6:6 "I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you!"

God goes on to say ... I will redeem you with My outstretched hand. I will take you as my own people and I will be your God!"

God does the saving!

TEEN CHALLENGE - THEY SHARED WITH ME

Last week I preached at a facility, called adult and teen challenge in Youngstown, where about 50 or so men were gathered in chapel service together. Some of them shared with me afterwards how God has rescued them, and delivered them from their addictions, and his set them on a path to success, and it was so beautiful to see them. Trust God and realize that God really does have a hope in a future for them and a plan to rescue them. These men finally came to the end of themselves and realize that they are not the solution to their own problems. and each of us sitting here today must come to that same realization that we are not an end of ourselves, that we need our creator. God, our father God, and his son Jesus to be our savior.

WELL I'M SMART

You may be here today thinking "Well Pastor Jordan I know how the world works. I'm not like those guys at Teen Challenge. I'm smart. In fact, compared to others, I'm really smart. I believe man created God in an effort to find meaning. I'm a philosopher. I know about Socrates, Plato, and I have thought long and hard about the idea of God and I just don't see my need. I believe in science.

Well sir or mam, you may believe in science and if by science you mean - the study of the world and how it works then I too believe in science. But did you know that you can believe both in science and in God? Did you know that many smart scientists have come to believe that there's more logic in a divine design - a Creator God - than there is in believing the world naturally formed into order - the planets perfectly aligned, the sun sits at the perfect distance from us, gravity, the oxygen level, everything is just right - on accident?

You may be smart but you are not smarter than God. You too need God. The very idea of Faith is admitting what you don't know and embracing the reality of the ONE who DOES know.

WELL I'M SUCCESSFUL

You may be here today thinking "Well I'm really successful Pastor Jordan. I've done well in my career and I simply don't need God. That's what many successful people thought before they stood before Jesus on judgment day and realized that all their money, their wealth, possessions and prestige means nothing in eternity. Every successful, wealthy man and woman will stand before God when their life here ends and they will either be separated from the goodness of God and tortured with all who rejected His gift of salvation OR they will be

welcomed into Heaven - the place Jesus went to prepare for them. The deciding factor is NOT the amount of money in the bank or assets they have acquired. The deciding factor is if they accepted JESUS as their Savior.

WELL I'M TOO FAR FROM GOD

You may be here today thinking "Well I'm too far from God."

You see this is the *lie of shame* as I like to call it.

Maybe you believe you've committed too many crimes - too many mistakes - there's just too much regret and piles of offenses on the scales of right and wrong - the wrong far outweighs the scale and God simply can not want me in His family."

YES. Yes He does.

Have you heard about the Thief on the cross, crucified next to Jesus on Calvary that day? You have to realize there was a thief on the cross hanging next to Jesus and he genuinely believed in a last ditch effort to be redeemed, he asked Jesus "when you enter your Kingdom, remember me in paradise." Jesus said "TODAY you will be with me in paradise."

No church attendance. No membership. No serving on ministry teams. No humanitarian aid. No philanthropy. No Boy Scouts. Only a LIFE FULL OF SELFISH CHOICES and yet JESUS forgives him! And He will forgive you today.

Prodigal Son

Jesus tells a story about a young man who grows tired of his Homelife and runs away demanding his inheritance from his father and he blows it on lavish living, drinking, women and partying. And yet the FATHER is looking for him - every day - hoping he will come home and start new and guess what - he comes home and the Father doesn't beat him. The Father doesn't force him to be a slave - even though in that culture he could have. He celebrated his return, gave him the family signant ring and threw a party that he had come home.

The Father is ALWAYS your father. The question is - are you home yet?

WELL I'M GOOD ON MY OWN

You may be here today thinking "Well Jordan I'm good on my own. Im not rich. I'm not successful but you have to understand I'm a really nice person!"

Really? (Funny) Have you ever

Rich Young Ruler - the man we read about earlier that spoke with Jesus and why did Jesus tell him to give all his money to the poor? Because Jesus knew his heart. You see GOD ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT IS IN OUR HEART.

God wants to give us a NEW HEART.

Maybe you're like that rich young ruler and you think you are good without God. Truth is you can not be good without God.

No amount of good works - good behavior and hear me - even generosity - will give you access to Heaven or even put you in right standing with God. Only JESUS can make you good.

We ALL have sinned, missed the mark and are in NEED of Jesus to forgive us - to make us new.

■ Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**You see if we don't have the resurrection of Jesus, we have nothing!
It's not just that Jesus died for us it's that He ROSE AGAIN proving his power over death - the consequence of a sinful life!**

■ Grammar matters - (insert a funny story about school or english)

in Romans 6:23 You have a comma & a period - A comma in grammar separates thoughts and gives the reader an opportunity to pause - in part to clarify but also to process what they just read - Look at the verse - For the wages of sin is death (,) - PAUSE & Process - its heavy when you think that the payment of my sin and disobedience to God is DEATH. But the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord (.) - The period signifies the end of the thought - the end of the statement. The writer is saying - Sin equals death (pause and let that sink in) But Through Jesus you can have eternal life.

Jesus through what He did for us on the cross paid that debt - understand sin required a sacrifice - What was Jesus sacrifice for you and for me.

■ Matthew 20:28

“Even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Last use of the term ransom is in Hosea foreshadowing what Jesus would one day do for you and me. - Hosea 13:14 The cross - his willing sacrifice paid the ransom. Jesus paid the ransom with his blood. More than any sacrifice before him - Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for our sins

Reference Matthew 27:35-50 - Jesus death on the cross. Paraphrase

■ // Main Point #3 Jesus transforms our life.

What Jesus did for you and for me is the opportunity to be brought from death into life. To transform our life into the life we were always created for.

Salvation brings us out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light.

Jesus calls us out of a life of sin, shame and bondage and transforms us into his image.

We are UNABLE to change on our own!

Christianity isn't behavioral modification.

It isn't meditation - think hard enough ...

It isn't ...

It isn't ...

It's SURRENDER - giving up and admitting that we need God and His Son Jesus that He sent to save us and show us what He is like!

■ Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

■ 1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Before Christ you were

Movie Clip - Jesus Revolution Baptism scene 4 min 38 sec

Opportunity to mention upcoming baptism date for each location

■ How do we have a transformed life?

1. We surrender our old ways and embrace God's ways
2. We daily depend on the Jesus and His Spirit (voice) to teach us specifically how to follow
3. We learn to become selfless w/ our time, money and giftings.

Ironically THIS is when come into what I like to call the MEANINGFUL LIFE - a life of giving to others - why because God FREELY gave to us!

WRAP IT UP

Not only did Jesus come to free us from sin but he also came to give us a new life (the life we were always created for) It's a free gift that when accepted moves us out of darkness and into life.

You can NOT save yourself! Only JESUS, only GOD can give you new life and give you access to His Heaven when your life on this earth ends!

Jesus said to Peter who was an ordinary man "I will make you a fisher of men..."

JESUS does the work. Not Peter.

JESUS does the work. Not you.

God said in Exodus 6 I WILL DELIVER YOU.

Becoming a Christian is not joining a club or ... it's SURRENDERING to GOD, admitting your need for God to forgive you and choosing to FOLLOW HIM and let HIM save you.

I want to remind you that the followers of Jesus kept asking Jesus when He was going to take over Rome by force - after all, that's what they were celebrating that week - when the Maccabees had forced the Syrians out of the 2nd Temple with militant strength.

They were ready for Jesus to be like this Maccabee hero of old who would drive out the Romans for good and even the Religious Leaders who were actually stealing from the temple and they felt that Jesus was going to come in like a General and just wipe them out.

They were looking for a general but they got a shepherd.

+> Jesus is the Good Shepherd, not the Good General.

+> Maybe you've misunderstood God.

Maybe you're here today because you've misunderstood God. Jesus has been misunderstood by many. Maybe you expected God to not allow certain things to happen and you can't believe that He allowed it.

Jesus *does* care about your pain.

Jesus *did* care about Mary's pain and loss of her brother. Jesus does care about the pain and heartache that you and I experience. He has more than sympathy. He has empathy.

But He can't stop pain from taking place as a result of men who sin. We live in a world that is subject to sin. We said last month that God is love and for us to experience His love and love Him in return, He has to give mankind free will. God does not control us. He allows us to choose Him. He allows us to *choose* to do the right thing or the wrong thing. Love can not exist without free will. He gives us the power to choose and even prompts us by His Spirit to choose Him - to choose life!

When Jesus was raised to life, it was a promise that not only are we given new life here on earth but that one day, we'll be raised to eternal life and be given new glorified heavenly bodies - like that of Jesus!

1 Cor. 15:20-26

"But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. 21 So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. 22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

23 But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back.

Salvation call - Have prayer team members come up, invite the church to stand and invite people forward to accept Jesus or renew their commitment to him.
Live music w/ worship team.

Sermon Notes

Jesus Revolution WK2 Jesus our Deliverer 04/09/2023

Jesus came to deliver us...

// Main Points

Jesus delivers us from the curse of Sin.

John 8:31-36

Storms are a part of all of our lives - some storms are fun to watch, or even listen to. One of my most favorite things to do in the summer is listen to a thunderstorm roll in. It's very peaceful to go to sleep - But when storms are really bad, they create fear, hopelessness, a sense that what I'm experiencing is going to be the end of me - Sin and the issues of life do the same things on a spiritual level. They leave us feeling hopeless, fearful, like there is no way out. Can I just say... BUT JESUS

Jesus paid a debt we couldn't pay

Romans 6:23 -For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ

Jesus our Lord.

Key Notes

Jesus offers us a transformed life

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. -

How do we have a transformed life?

1. We surrender our old ways
2. We daily depend on the Jesus
3. We learn to become selfless w/ our time, money and giftings.

// Discussion Questions

Why do you think people often choose to remain in bondage to sin even after finding out that salvation and freedom are given freely to us from Jesus?

Describe what a transformed life looks like in your own words

What can we do to ensure that we never again become entangled in sin and used by the enemy?

Jesus is the resurrection and the life and he is the only one able to give you new life in an escape from death.

As we talked about last week sin is a mess that we are all born into. That sin, the Bible tells us, leads us to death. Death is separation from God for Life comes from God. We are all drowning in need of Jesus to save us from certain death. To be saved and given resurrection life, we simply have to ask Jesus to save us. It's that simple. Admit our need for God.

Some believe that science has proven that God doesn't exist. Don't forget that Paul was resolute in his belief that Christianity was NOT true. He was devout in his beliefs. Yet, something changed. This was a scholar. This is a Jewish man who knew

the law inside and out. He had philosophy for why Jesus couldn't be the Messiah. But all of that went out the window when He encountered Jesus face to face.

He was traveling along the road when Jesus interrupted him and startled him. He became physically blind by this encounter then was alone in a home feeling confused and despondent feeling his way around when suddenly a man God sent there named Ananias told him the Gospel. Saul (who became Paul) was blind and therefore led by his feelings. Anytime you're led by you're feelings and emotions, you're blind. You must encounter Jesus Christ to discover the truth - the truth about God - the truth about mankind. The truth about everything.

Some think that there are Christians only because of what's called "Social Construction" Their parents believed, their community believed so they believe. But that argument falls flat when you apply it to the atheist or the agnostic or Hindu or anyone else. You may be bent to not believe if your parents told you not to believe. Of course we're all shaped by our culture and upbringing but it doesn't change the fact that it takes faith to believe that there is no God. It takes just as much faith to be an atheist and believe the universe fine-tuned itself for life as it does to believe in a Divine Design, a Creator behind it all.

People who make this argument - that religion like Christianity is simply socially constructed will usually say that Christians haven't *searched hard enough* - they haven't rationalized why it's possible for God *not* to exist and for good behavior to just be a choice.

But you have to realize that many of "those people" have had their faith crisis too. They have thought rationally about God and they've discovered personally what Saul discovered, what I discovered, that rationally, man can not exist without God. We don't believe Jesus is real and the Bible is true simply because our parents told us so. We believe it because like Paul we've experienced Jesus, not as an abstract idea, but as a person. He is a personal God who speaks to us, who directs us, who comforts us, who answers our most personal questions. He's a God who specifically will teach us about one verse or idea repeatedly through multiple avenues proving to us that He is speaking to us and intimately involved with our thoughts and desires to know Him. He is a personal God and becomes more and more personal the more you follow Him.