

WHO IS JESUS FOR?

PASTOR JORDAN BIEL | 04.07.24 | FRIEND SUNDAY

HOOK: The Gospel of Jesus is for the hopeless, the religious, and the godless ... for YOU.

Outline:

1. Hopeless

Luke 24 “they had hoped” People who thought Jesus would solve all their worldly problems but missed that He came to solve their inner problems.

2. Faultless / Religious

Luke 19 “I did nothing wrong”

People who think that by working in church and on “christian” things that their good works and social justice and faults record will prove they (and not others) have earned their spot.

3. Godless

Luke 19 Prodigal Son

People who realize they’ve made so many mistakes and they’re at rock bottom.

INTRO / WELCOME

I’m Pastor Jordan and Im the Lead Pastor and Campus Pastor here in Kinsman and I’m so glad you’re with us today! We’re leading people to follow Jesus together. We aren’t following a man. We aren’t following a program. We’re following Jesus and His Spirit is His voice on the earth teaching us how to follow Jesus. We’re glad you’re with us today to learn more about that.

Funny Story: Parenting?

HOPELESS

On the Road to Emmaus

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and

word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. *ESV*

This moment in the sermon is for those who have walked away. This first group of people I want to say JESUS IS FOR YOU - this first group - are those who have lost hope in the world. You’ve seen too much. You’re hurting. You can’t believe that God - if He’s real - would allow so much suffering. You wish He would just get His act together and remove all the bad people and you’re willing to say that the ends justify the means. You feel that if God will just “wipe them all out” THEN the world will be better. Remove all the scum from the earth.” You say “then we’ll be good to go”

Notice these two men were walking away from Jerusalem - and all it stood for. And they were walking back to Emmaus

What is Emmaus?

When I read this last week about Jesus rising from the dead and whom He appeared to and how, this story struck me.

Many are walking away from their faith in the world today - they're calling it "deconstruction" Many times, "deconstructing" your faith to ensure you know what you believe is actually a good thing. Systematic Theology - talking through what you really believe and why - is healthy and wise. But deconstructing your Christian roots so you can go on your own personal journey walking away from Jesus - as these men walked away from Jerusalem and all that it represented - will only leave you far from God, grieving more, more confused and certainly hopeless.

Where then do you put your hope if not in Christ? Do you put your hope in the economy? How about 1933 then how do you avoid that? Do you put your hope in politics? How about when your beloved president gets ill or dies or isn't voted in or ... what then? Are you hopeless? Do you put your hope in your physical health? My sister Nancy was was incredibly healthy - exercising weekly and consistency - the Dr even said "a perfect specimen of a healthy person" yet... Geoblastoma developed in her brain. Cancer took her physical body. BUT her hope was in JESUS and the life to COME not in this world!? So deconstruct all you want. Think things through - but after all your thinking, I truly hope you come to trust in JESUS and you don't make the mistake of believing that you are smarter and know more than the God who gave you the Bible and sent His only Son to save you.

All this takes incredible faith I know.

To believe that 2,000 years ago a man came and died and rose again and that man was GOD!?!? Really?

To believe that He then magically ascended into heaven to go back to where he came from and promised to one day take us there too?! Really? That takes faith! Yes it does.

It also takes faith to believe evolution. That all matter magically combusted and formed all the animals, humans with brains processing math and story and art and design and all of it - just so happened to form on it's own - no intelligent design? Really? Everything started without a cause? You're throwing cause and effect out the window? There was no impetus to it all? It all just spun fast enough and then BIG... BANG. Really?

The question isn't "Do you have faith?" Because we all have faith. The question is WHAT is your faith IN? Where have you put your faith and trust?

We talked last week on Easter Sunday, about the fact that we are in-between. We are living in between the resurrection and the rapture - Jesus' return for His church.

And just like in the moments after Jesus' death, it took faith for the disciples and of Jesus' followers to believe that He would do the impossible and rise from the dead, likewise, it takes faith for us to believe that Jesus, a man we've never seen with our own eyes, will come back again and we will go to Heaven with Him!
YES, it's

D

■ This first group - the hopeless walking back to Emmaus - are people who thought Jesus would solve all their worldly problems but missed that He came to solve their inner problems. This group believes also that political leaders are the real heroes.

So again, this group of people believes that politics are the answer. That if we can just vote in the right guy who will lead with justice and remove all the bad guys,

If you pray that God will just violently remove all the scum from the earth - The problem with that philosophy and that kind of faith is that you too my friend would be removed from the earth. All our good deeds are like filthy rags compared to the righteousness of Jesus, God's Son.

The Gospel of Jesus and the Way of Jesus is for those who will look within and see their need for a Savior.

2. Faultless / Religious

Luke 15 & “I did nothing wrong”

People who think that by working in church and on “christian” things that their good works and social justice and faults record will prove they (and not others) have earned their spot.

The older brother in this story represents those who feel they have earned their spot in God’s Kingdom.

Jesus as usual teaches two or three layers of truth all at once.

The older brother also represents the Jewish people and religious leaders namely who believe that because of their heritage that they are welcomed into the Kingdom of God and have become righteous through their good genes - being “CHOSEN” and of course their good deeds.

The problem is that they’re cynical and judgmental. They’re close-minded.

Rich Young Ruler Story

The Rich Ruler

¹⁸ And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’ ” ²¹ And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.” ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²³ But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. ²⁴ Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, “How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 18:18–24). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

He felt his salvation was predicated on HIS work “What must I DO...?”

Btw Jesus is NOT saying that rich people won’t enter heaven. Some of the most Christlike godly people I know are millionaires. Jesus is pointing out that this man is putting all his hope in his wise choices that have even given him material wealth.

He’s pointing out that your wise choices - your delayed gratification, good stewardship and emotional intelligence and people skills can get you to a place where you’re well-off and financially set. Yes. But that does not equate godliness. It doesn’t equate a changed heart - a heart that’s transformed by the grace of God.

Poor people will go to heaven and Rich people will go to heaven.
 Poor people will go to hell and rich people will go to hell.
 People forgiven of their sins who have put their faith in JESUS will go to heaven
 - whether they were rich or poor in this life.

WHO IS JESUS FOR? Is my question for you today? Friends (and people I've never met yet - that will hopefully become my friends and church family =)
JESUS is for the rich guy who has it all together but wonders if there's something more to life.

The man or woman who has it all but doesn't yet have peace - the one who knows - there is STILL something more I'm missing.

In the words of one of my favorite theologian (lol) John Mayer "Somethings missing and I don't know what it is.

Friends Check

Money Check

Opposite sex Check

Microphone Check (pun intended)

Guitar check

Messages waiting on me when I get home ... Check

In other words, friends he's got them. Money. He's got it. Life partner? Check.

Prestige Check. But what about a transformed heart? Not yet.

Parable of the Vineyard Workers

Read It

All of them receive the same grace by the Vineyard Owner, aka the Master. If you constantly are comparing yourself to others and measuring your works against others to ensure you're doing more and doing better - than you're in this group - whether you knew it or not.

You see to answer the question "Who is Jesus for?" We can see that JESUS is for ALL of us - all who will admit our need for Him?

He's even for the godless thief who works for government.

3. Godless

Jesus confused the crowd when He decided to invite Himself over to have lunch with a known sinner - a thief named Zacheus. Everyone KNEW Zach was a criminal - a mobster at best and yet Jesus wanted to include HIM? After spending considerable time with Zach, Jesus and Zach walk out of the house and Zach says "I'm giving back everything I stole and then some!"

⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” ESV LK 19:9-10

Who is the GOSPEL for? It's for Zach too. The godless - the one who KNOWS they've done wrong.

Luke 15 Prodigal Son

LUKE 15:11-32

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’” ESV

So  **WHO IS JESUS FOR? JESUS IS FOR ...**

People who realize they've made so many mistakes and they're at rock bottom. You will continue to pursue happiness through pleasure until you let Jesus renew your soul.

Colossians 2:23

Many participate in regular religious services only in effort to “be a good christian” and in hopes of regulating their bad behavior. While wanting to “be good” is a great motivation, it can't be the primary one. The primary motivation for worship service attendance and serving in a “serve team” or expression of service, must be that of worship - “I want to show God how thankful I am. I want to express my gratitude.” In this light, the heart is in tuned in to what God may be speaking (on the INSIDE) whereas the other motive is too outwardly focused - what people see of me (on the OUTSIDE)

You can have it all together on the outside and falling apart on the inside. Jesus has the power to heal the brokenness within so you are your true self to the world around you - not a masked version of you.

In this story we see

God is the Father - the generous patient Father.

The younger brother needs grace and to realize how generous his Father is.

The young brought needs to repent of his sin and ask God to take him back

The older brother needs to realize that everything he has is a gift from Father. He religious. He knows all the right things and does all the right things. Attends all the church services and even greets at the door. But inwardly he's angry. He compares himself to others non stop and in his mind he is better than most. He doesn't believe half the people in the church belong there.

Religion is trying to earn what the Father has freely given. Trying to earn your salvation will bring you to a place of nonstop comparison with other people - a life free of the joy God intends. True joy comes from simple gratitude for God's love, gifts, family and promises.



The Father's love never changes.


The Father invites BOTH back to the party / home.

The Father was LOOKING for the wayward son - God sends the Holy Spirit to find us and is awaiting our return home. He doesn't judge us upon our arrival but welcomes us with open arms!

Again, the younger brother who's a disaster! He spends all his dad's money, sleeps with prostitutes, and his life is a train wreck.

Where are you in the story today? Are you sleeping the pig pen realizing that doing life your way isn't working? Maybe that song that plays at Olive Garden non stop "I did it my way" only sounds good until you try it and you're finding out that being selfish and self-serving and vying to get what you want the moment you want it - is actually leaving you pretty unhappy - alone - angry. Are you on your way back home to the Father - glad that a friend invite you on Friend Sunday and honestly you can't wait for the end of the sermon bc already your heart is beating wildly knowing you need to give your life to Jesus?

The younger brother had desires outside of his control.
To be honest, we all do.

 **The Spirit of Jesus can remove the sinful desires that lead us down the dangerous path. The desires that lead to death - those cravings of our soul that bring indulgence temporarily but regret in the end.**

"Spirituality is ultimately about what we do with that desire. What we do with our longings both in terms of handling pain and the hope they bring us, that is our spirituality." - Rolheiser, The Holy Longing

In the amazing story of the Lord of the Rings we find that the man who first found the ring of power became an untamed ugly creature as the desire for power overwhelmed him. And even young innocent Frodo and his companions were tempted by the power this ring offered.

Evil had to be overcome by good.
The need for power and pleasure had to be overcome.

Paul told us to put our trust in JESUS and the world to come

20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, ... (world rules and traditions) have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

3 *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 2:20–3:4). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

In every other religion, the message is to repress your desires or in agnosticism the message is to release your desires - be “true to yourself” “be the real you” in other words “do what you want. You deserve it!” Much of the world will tell you this today - IG influencers even psychologists. But where does lead you? Closer to God or further?

But in just repressing our desires we end up feeling like a failure. We sense “I’m not good at being a Christian. This Christian thing is just not for me.”

We only feel that way when we are choosing to simply repress our desires instead of doing what the Bible instructs us to do - redirect our desires to center around the person of Jesus.

■ All of Heaven centers around Jesus and finds their joy in doing so. Don’t you think you too, also a created being, will find your joy in focusing your heart towards Jesus?

Remember the two men on the road to Emmaus...

Their faces were downcast, and they were experiencing what we all have experienced and many of us far too often what we could call Hope deferred YET... After a few hours of walking and talking with Jesus, they got more and more excited as the Holy Spirit truth to them every single profit was talking about Jesus and every biblical hero pointed to Jesus - and they’ll get to spend ETERNITY with Him! .

Jesus explained that all their heroes and the ancestry of Israel from David to Gideon Joseph to Samson or simply pictures of Jesus the son of God the Messiah that had truly risen for the dead. It was not that his body was stolen, but that he really did what he said he would do.


Once Jesus broke bread with him, we could even imply or infer that he had communion with him. The minute he broke the bread. God says their hearts were opened. It was as if Jesus, the Spirit of Jesus (the eternal part of him - not His physical body but rather His Spirit - broke through the exterior and into the interior!

John Lennon wrote many great songs. As a songwriter myself I can truly tell you that this guy was an amazing songwriter. Few can put pen to paper and express human emotions with quippy rhymes and simple but perfect chords.

“Imagine” is my least favorite Lennon song. Sadly, Lennon isn’t a dreamer at all in this song, though he claims that he is. He’s living without real imagination or hope, foolishly thinking that the answer to death and war, greed and hunger, is to be found in a world with nothing below it or above it.

Lennon couldn’t be more wrong. In fact, the answer to all the world’s problems is the very thing Lennon asks us to imagine doesn’t exist. If you believe that this present world is all there is, then you will war and plunder and seek to get rather than give. If, on the other hand, you believe what the Bible teaches - that what you’re seeing now is merely a shadow of what is to come - 1 Corinthians 13:12 - then you can live freely, generously, and even have joy in this present world - even with its problems.

It can be inviting to be sucked into worldly solutions, but we have to accept God’s rich picture of the future of heaven and earth.


C. S. Lewis, is also poet but just a little more accurate. This poet and pastor - well theological anyway -  **C.S. Lewis asks us to imagine that the world accessible to us right now is nothing more than a black-and-white pencil drawing done by an imprisoned mother trying to teach her child what things look like beyond the walls.**

One day, the mother realizes that the child’s viewpoint is truly and only two-dimensional. Indeed, he is shocked and dismayed to discover that there are no pencil lines outlining the real-life trees, clouds, or hills. “What?” says the boy. “No pencil marks there?”

Lewis observes of this imagined child:

He has no idea of the waving treetops, the light dancing on the sky or the colored three-dimensional realities which can’t be seen in lines from a pencil!

What God has created, no drawing could ever achieve or explain! The child will get the idea that the real world is somehow less visible than his mother’s pictures. In reality it lacks lines because it is incomparably more visible.

So it is with us when we, imprisoned as we are in a fallen world, try to imagine what the new heaven and earth will be like.  **“What we will be has not yet been made known” 1 John 3:2**

John tells us. All our natural experiences are merely sketches, penciled lines on flat paper. 2 dimensional when 3 dimension is coming. Or I'll even say - Heaven is four dimensional for us trapped in a 3 dimensional life. You'll be able to walk through walls, fly with no airplane needed. You'll be given a body like His" the Bible says. This life is pencil lines compared to what is coming! Who is Jesus for? Jesus is for those who know that this life does NOT offer what our souls crave! We crave a world that has no cancer, no arthritis, no infection, no loss, no grief, no tears and JESUS offers that! And He not only offers it but He is the only one who can guarantee it and actual deliver it!

Toward the very end of Revelation, John is shown that the invisible heaven above us will descend to the earth that was all John Lennon could see:

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. Revelation 21:1-7

In this passage, you'll find concepts you're already familiar with: heaven, earth, sea, city, a bride, a tabernacle; God dwelling with us, tears, eyes, and death, mourning, crying, and pain; a throne. Newness. Thirst quenched at springs of water of life freely given. Inheritance. Adoption. I'm sure if I asked you for definitions of any of those words and phrases, you'd easily comply. But we have a problem: what we know about those things now are only pencil sketches on paper. Our imaginations are imprisoned.

Imagine this, then: a world where beautiful, soul-satisfying music never ends. Imagine that you won't be wishing it was louder or quieter. You'll not be distracted by anything off-key, in fact; and you won't be nervous about when the music will end. Imagine a world where the joy you have felt possible only just

once or twice during a worship service is just a pencil drawing of the actual blast of bliss that you'll feel when you step into that worship where the angels are dancing (Heb 12:22) and you can barely breathe for joy and excitement—but you're not worried about dying because you've finally tasted real life.

In a song I wrote when Tom Hall died suddenly - a man that was really loved in our church - I had to process my thoughts putting lyrics to music and in that song Finally Here, I wrote about Heaven being the place "Where the colors shine brighter than ever before and the only light is the light of the Lord and the sound - the sound of angels singing! The presence of God is filling my lungs and it's like I'm breathing in Your love and the I join, I join the angels singing!" Imagine that. Imagine that this morning! THAT is the place where JESUS has promised you and me and this world CAN NOT OFFER THAT!

Your good deeds won't get you there. Your judgment of others and incessant comparison game won't get you there.

Your "Oprah Theology" won't get you there Your "Oprah" theology meaning that of looking within and meditation and universalism and "let's just all get along" that theology won't get you there! ONLY JESUS can get you there! He is the only one who not only created that perfect world but died in your place and my place - taking the punishment we deserved so that we could go there to a wedding feast - a party like you've never seen!

Imagine sitting down to a wedding feast (Rev 19:7^L, 9^L) where the food is unlike anything you've ever tasted— Imagine that the hall in which the table is set goes on and on and on and yet you don't feel overwhelmed or insignificant. And imagine that the wine that will flow and flow and yet you won't get drunk or worry about making a fool of yourself (again) or even of having indigestion. Imagine a world in which you experience this joy but you're not puking in the toilet the next morning! That's what the prophet Isaiah described and Revelation defines! Wine without price! Entrance without an admission costs.

Imagine looking to where you think the bridal party is seated and seeing the face of Jesus, the One you've been scrounging around looking for in all the dumpsters of this world. Imagine seeing his smile directed specifically at you, though you can't think of how that's even possible in this great hall—and then looking down at what you're wearing and realizing that you're the bride (sorry, guys) and you're gloriously dressed in white linen that has been fashioned out of all the good deeds of all your sisters and brothers, the saints (Rev 19:8^L).

Imagine that in HIS LOVE you are fully satisfied! Who is Jesus for? He is for YOU! He is for me! JESUS is the soul's satisfaction!

Imagine being overwhelmed with that kind of GRACE! You'll know that he truly does know you, the real you; and that doesn't scare you anymore, because the old you is finally and completely gone according to 2 Cor 5:17

Imagine that Jesus the one comes walking up to you and your friends and you say, "Oh Lord! We were just talking about you!" And he smiles and says, "I was thinking about you, too—and look! I've brought lunch!" Imagine eating the fruit from the tree of life (Rev 2:7 22:2 22:14 and when you take just one bite and you're overwhelmed with energy and happiness.


Imagine that. JESUS is offering you an eternity in HIS presence where there is NO more physical pain and NO more sadness - no more heartache!

Many of you today are feeling hopeless - not satisfied with the pencil drawings—The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires to take the water of life without price ... Jesus says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. (Rev 22:17)

ENDING / SUMMARY / ALTAR CALL

I want to ask you all to bow your head and close your eyes and let God speak to you right now. Don't harden your hearts and ignore His voice. But let GOD, your Father who has been waiting for your return - speak to you today - right now.

Band comes up after everyone bows their head.

This story we opened up with today of the two men walking away from Jerusalem - walking away from their faith in Jesus - sad, despondent - feeling hopeless - teaches us that  **We have a mind that thinks through what's happening in our soul, but at the core of who we are is our soul - the inside of us, the heart that nobody can see... except God. Jesus confronts their misbelief and misguided faith that God was going to overthrow political rulers instead of overthrow the sin in their hearts.**

It was there in this place - the souls, the hearts of these two men that God's Spirit broke in!!! And revealed the beauty and wonder of Jesus!

It is in the soul of our being where we need a revelation of the beauty of Jesus!!!!

What these two men on the road to Emmaus were truly craving was an encounter with Jesus, the wonder and splendor and prince of Heaven! They thought they wanted a political ruler that would solve their worldly problems but once Jesus opened the eyes of their HEARTS, then and only then did they realize what they truly wanted ... JESUS!

Who are you today? 

Are you hopeless like these two men - like Mary Madglene who found the grave empty - assuming Romans had stolen Jesus' body.

Are you religious like Nicodemus a religious leader who asked about salvation from Jesus Himself and the answer didn't suffice bc after all he had already done all his good works? Or will you admit your need for a Savior?

Are you godless like the Prodigal Son - maybe you've cleaned up to come to church today but inwardly you know you're a mess - drug addiction - in and out of jail - theft or adultery - from one problem to the next it seems like you just can't get it right. Is that you? Are you aware that only a hug from Father God - the one who made you - will cause you to truly repent and find your identity in just being His.

Do you need to put your trust in JESUS today?

Those accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior - we have a gift for you - side walls...

FRIEND SUNDAY

If you're a guest with us, join me AND the person that brought you - in the Cafe for a short, lite SNACK and just a chance to get to know you - AND door prizes! Yes I'm bribing you.

It's like a time-share. I'll say 20 minutes but it's actually 4 hours. Just kidding you'll be outta there in 20 minutes... or so.