

5. What are some of the ways Jesus challenges our thinking, speaking, and action?

6. What might you say (over time) to someone who tells you they abandoned their faith after something bad happened in their lives or in the life of a loved one?

7. Why do Christians doubt?

8. What can you do to make sure you don't miss the resurrection?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Easter 2021

"5 Ways to Miss the Resurrection"

John 20:1,11-16

To miss the resurrection is to miss the core of the Christian faith and the greatest _____ our faith offers.

5 Ways to Miss the Resurrection

1. We look for the _____ Jesus.

There are all kinds of ways we can look for the wrong Jesus, but all of them have one thing in common: they all _____ Jesus.

C.S. Lewis: "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about [Jesus]: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

2. We look for an _____ Jesus.

Jesus affirms us as persons—he loves us—but he challenges almost everything else about us because he _____ us.

Mark 1: ¹⁴ After John [the Baptist] was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. **Repent** and believe the good news!"

Jesus challenges our _____. (Luke 18:9-14)

Jesus challenges focusing our lives and hope on success, wealth or financial security, experiences, and _____. (Mark 10:17-22; Luke 9:25)

3. We look for a Jesus that will solve all our _____. (John 15:18-20; Matthew 5:10-13)

The resurrection ensures that our greatest problems will be solved in his way and in his _____.

1 Corinthians 15: 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ...²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Jesus experienced our pain so deeply that he gave his life to end our pain with nothing in it for him to _____.

4. We look for a Jesus that dispels all our _____.

Faith isn't the _____ of doubt. Christians doubt.

Thomas Nagel: "I want atheism to be true.... It isn't just that I don't believe in God, and naturally, hope that I'm right about my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that."

5. We focus on a way of life and miss Jesus _____. (John 20:14-16)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Read John 20:1-16. What are some of the things that stand out to you about this account?

3. What are some of the ways we are prone to diminish Jesus?

4. In what ways do you agree or disagree with the C.S. Lewis quote from the sermon (see notes above)?