

**“All other religions offer as salvation
some form of liberation from ordinary humanness.”**

Ultimate salvation, in all other religions is always seen as someday escaping the shackles of our humanity, the shackles of our individuality, our physical embodiment, getting away from the ordinary human life of eating, drinking, sleeping, and working. Every other religion says salvation means we'll someday be released and liberated from ordinary humanness into a kind of ethereal, esoteric, transcendent, pure spiritual existence.

“But biblical salvation lies not in an escape from this world, but in the transformation of this world. You will not find hope for this world in any other religious system or any other philosophy of humankind. The biblical vision is unique.” The ordinariness of Jesus subverts and contradicts what every other religion except biblical religion says about salvation.

Every other approach says salvation means God releasing us from ordinary human life, but when you read the Bible, when you see the life of Jesus ... Who's Jesus? It's God. According to the Bible, salvation goes in the opposite direction, the opposite trajectory. God comes down into our humanness. He gets entangled in it. He immerses himself in ordinary human life. He becomes the kind of person who needs to know, “Where am I going to eat tomorrow? What am I going to drink tomorrow?”

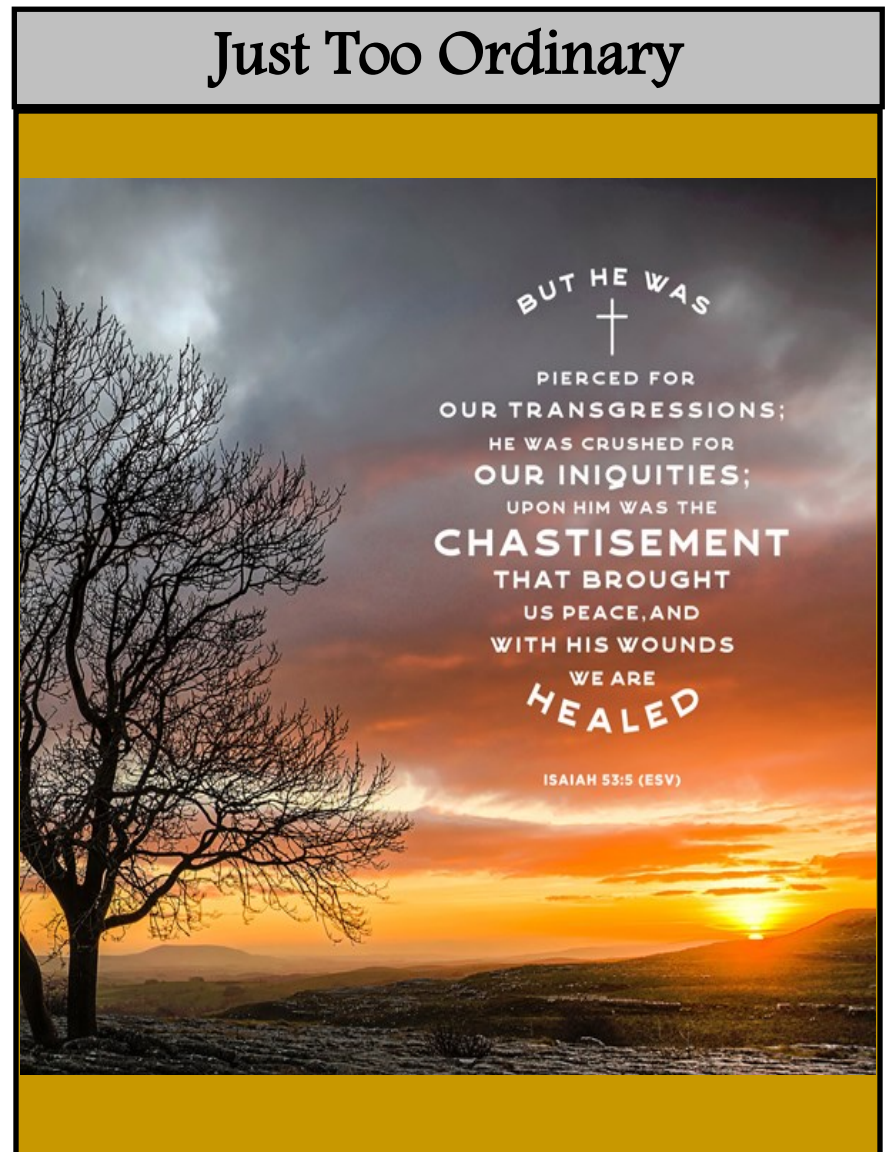
He not only gets involved in just simple, ordinary human life, but also in the vulnerability, pain, and suffering of our human life, and eventually he dies to redeem it. —Tim Keller



July 24, 2022

10:30 A.M.

Just Too Ordinary



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise: "Crown Him(Majesty)"
...Tomlin/Cash/Elvey/Thring/Maher/Bridges

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism*, Q. #26

Song of Praise

"Living Hope". Johnson/Wickham

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

The Law of God: Matthew 22:37-40

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Ephesians 1:7

Song of Renewal

"In the Hands of Christ My King".Austin Stone Worship

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:1-13

Prayer

The Sermon

"Just too Ordinary"

Song of Communion

"To See the King of Heaven Fall".Getty/Townend

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"For the Cause". Getty/Townend

Benediction

*The Heidelberg Catechism originated in Germany in 1562 under the authority of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the most important German province, the Palatinate, from his castle in Heidelberg. He commissioned the preparation of a new catechism for guiding ministers and teachers in instructing people in the Christian faith.

How does this relate to us?

In the last part of this passage, Jesus shows us if you follow him, just as he offends people, and therefore just as he evokes visceral rejection, you too will offend people and evoke visceral rejection.

"You should be incredibly attractive. You should go out loving people. You should go out sacrificially giving to people, serving people, healing the sick, and exorcising demons. In that sense, you're going to be incredibly attractive, ...but on the other hand, you're still going to be telling people I am the only Lord and Savior of the world, and that's going to be very offensive."⁴

This mixture of attraction and offense is exactly what we see in the history of the early church. Christians were the most inclusive-acting people the world had ever seen. They were the most exclusive-sounding people they had ever heard.

Do you see it?

Are you willing to be both attractive and offensive? Can you be? The closer you get in heart and life to what Jesus has done, to that ultimate visceral rejection he got on the cross, the more you will become the most attractive and offensive person. Most of us aren't either.

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"But biblical salvation lies not in an escape from this world, but in the transformation of this world. You will not find hope for this world in any other religious system or any other philosophy of humankind. The biblical vision is unique."⁵

¹Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior* (Vol. 1, pp. 131-132). Crossway Books.

²Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 231). Zondervan Publishing House.

³Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior* (Vol. 1, p. 136). Crossway Books.

⁴Keller, T. J. (2013). *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive*. Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

⁵Keller, T. J. (2013). *The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive*. Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

Their conclusion

“Is not this the carpenter?” means, Is he not a common worker with his hands even as the rest of us are? The additional phrase “the son of Mary” is probably disparaging.

They are not driven so much by a desire to know what is behind Jesus’ miracles as by an itch to confirm their private prejudice that he cannot be all that remarkable.²

The Result

“And he could do no mighty work there”

In the presence of gross unbelief Jesus restricted his activity to the healing of a few sick individuals. Jesus was not free to exercise his power *in these circumstances*.

Unbelief robs the Church of its power.

Without a believing expectancy in Christ and his power, nothing will come of it.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Jesus Sent them out with Instructions (vv. 7–13)

Mark 6:7–13 (ESV)

And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—⁹but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

What happened with the Twelve?

They heralded the gospel, preaching that the Kingdom was at hand and that people must turn from their sin in preparation for it (cf. Matthew 10:7). The result was, “they drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”

In short, the Twelve experienced great power in bringing the gospel to an unbelieving world. It was repentance, deliverance, and healing, just as if Christ were physically there. There was a foretaste of what the Church would do through the centuries when it operated in the power of the Holy Spirit.³

Upcoming Events

Monday, July 25– Saturday, July 30 Senior High Youth Week
at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference in New Jersey

Saturday, August 6 6:00 P.M. August Prayer Dinner
at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Sunday, August 17 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer
GCC Prayer Gathering —1300 High St.

Saturday, August 20 8:00 A.M Men’s Breakfast
at the home of Pastor Rick

Needs for Birthright

18 month Summer outfits (matching shirt/shorts)

Maternity summer dresses

0-3, 3-6 month neutral colored shorts (black, gray, khaki)

Small, medium, large maternity leggings

Items may be given to Deanna Deichert or dropped off at Birthright.

Crossing Cultures International

David and Mindy Nelson

Vietnam

- Please pray for God’s protection and health for the Hmong Coordinator’s wife, as she is three months pregnant with a second baby.
- Pray for Pastor N’s son, who is in the second year of college. May God provide him with the tuition fee to finish his college studies.
- Pray for the new class for Jarai church leaders in southern Vietnam that will start this month. Pray that these students will learn, study effectively, and be faithful in their studies so that they can grow in Christ.



THE WOMAN CONSIDERING ABORTION

Many women experiencing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy see abortion as their only option. Pray that God will bring people into the path of a woman in this situation to encourage her and give her hope. Pray that she will know she is loved and intended, and that her child is loved as well. Ask God to show her that Jesus loves her deeply. Pray that her physical, emotional, and spiritual needs will be met so she will see a way to choose life.

Prayer/Praise. July 24, 2022

- Pray for Emelia, the 6-year-old daughter of Barb Hunter's friend, Lindsey. Emelia fell off monkey bars at the park and broke her elbow. She was transported to Children's Hospital for surgery, and she is in a cast. Pray for quick healing and comfort in a cast during this summer for Emelia.
- Pray for Joie Horner's friend, Cheryl. Her husband was cutting down trees on June 29th, and tragically, one fell on him and took his life. He leaves behind his wife and 4 children, the oldest being only 10. Pray for God's continued strength, comfort, and peace for Cheryl and her family.
- Praise that Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law, Beth's surgery on July 5th was successful. She will possibly have a preventive treatment using radiation. Praise God that Beth's cancer doctor does not need to see her until her mammogram next year. Pray for God's continued healing for Beth.
- Praise that Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, is doing well with his prosthetics. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God's strength for Austin as he navigates his new life.
- Pray for Leah, daughter of John Kurtyka and cousin of Lorraine Blanski, who is struggling with drug addiction and is away at an 8-month drug rehabilitation program. Pray for God's strength, peace, and comfort for Leah.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's daughter, as her marriage is struggling, and harsh words are coming from her husband. Pray for her granddaughter as she is hearing things she shouldn't be listening to.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for Liam's and Terry's families.
- Pray for Steve Simons neighbor, Mrs. McCabe, who has dementia. Pray for God's strength for the McCabe family during this difficult time.
- Praise that Dalton Weider, father of Lulu Bocci's friend, Mary, is now in rehab learning to talk, walk, and move his muscles. Pray for his progress and his family as they support him.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniuk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' friend, Debbie Breyer's husband, who is in the hospital with undetermined issues. Pray for God's healing.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Praise that Evan can be off the breathing machine for the hours he is awake. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing through her chemotherapy treatment.

Message

Just too Ordinary

Mark 6:1-13

Introduction

Jesus left Capernaum and travelled southward into the hill country until he came to the village where he had spent his youth and the early years of his maturity. Jesus returned to Nazareth as would a rabbi, accompanied by his disciples. Our Lord returns to this little, small town for one final visit to the people who were most familiar with Him.

In this text we witness the Lord reaching out to an unbelieving people, what happened to him in return, and how he and his disciples responded. There is considerable wisdom here for how a Christian lives in an unbelieving world.¹

Jesus is Offensive (vv. 1-6)

Mark 6:1-6 (ESV)

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." ⁵And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

Their initial reaction was amazement.

They were amazed at two things: his "wisdom" and his "miracles."

Their Question?

What was the source of his wisdom, and who had empowered him to speak and act with such authority?

To these questions two answers lie close at hand: the source was God, or it was demonic. Their first impressions of astonishment shaded off to resentment when they recalled Jesus' earlier vocation and standing in Nazareth. Not knowing the source of his wisdom, **they find his office as a teacher offensive.**