

Who Is This Jesus of Easter? Resurrection Sunday

Thesis: Today is Easter Sunday, Resurrection Sunday! We celebrate the risen Lord Jesus Christ. We are so glad you are here in person and online.

Target: By the end of this message, I hope that we have revelation of who this Jesus of Easter really is.

Who is this Jesus of Easter?

John 1:1-17 (NIV) 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" 16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus is life.

- a. *John 1:4 (NIV) In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*
- b. **Jesus is alive and his life defeats death forever.**
 - i. *Luke 24:2-8 (NIV) 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen!"*

Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " 8
Then they remembered his words.

c. Jesus is resurrection life.

- i. Luke 24:36-47 (NIV) 36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." 40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence. 44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

d. Jesus is indestructible life.

- i. Hebrews 7:15–16 (NIV) 15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, 16 one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry **but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.**

e. Jesus is life and he is the way into the Father's family (John 1:12).

- i. John 14:6 (NIV) "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

2. Jesus is light.

- a. John 1:5 (NIV) The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness cannot conquer the light.
- b. John 8:12 (NIV) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. **Whoever follows me** will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- c. Isaiah 9:2 (NIV) The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

- d. **Jesus not only defeats darkness *out there*; he also conquers the darkness *inside of each of us*.** Oh, how we need the Lord to shine his light into our hearts and lives.
 - i. *Colossians 1:12-14 (NIV) ... 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the **kingdom of light**. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*
 - ii. *1 Peter 2:9 (NIV84) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who **called you out of darkness into his wonderful light**.*
3. **Jesus is love.**
- a. *1 John 4:9-10 (NIV) 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*
 - b. **Jesus embodies love.**
 - i. *Ephesians 3:14–21 (NIV) 14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep **is the love of Christ**, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*
 - c. The love of God is the motivation and empowerment that transforms lives. Praise the Lord.
 - d. Look at what God's love did for us: shielding us from all of the venom of death, darkness, and emptiness. **What a weapon is your love, Lord!**
 - e. And, the love of God offers to us a new reality: **that we might be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**
4. **Jesus is Lord.**
- a. *Acts 2:36 (NIV) "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*
 - i. Jesus is Lord, which means King.

- ii. Jesus is Christ; the appointed and anointed one; Messiah.
- b. Jesus is unlike any king or ruler this world has known. **Jesus sits on a throne of grace**; not intimidation, manipulation, or abuse of power.
- c. *Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV) 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*
 - i. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords right now, ruling and reigning at the Father's right hand.
 - ii. And one day, Jesus will come again and put heaven and earth back together under his kingdom rule of justice, truth, and righteousness. The zeal of the Lord God Almighty will do it.

Invitation:

In answer to the question, *Who Is This Jesus?*, we could go on and on.

On this Resurrection Sunday, we highlighted four specific revelations of who Jesus is.

1. Jesus is life.
2. Jesus is light.
3. Jesus is love.
4. Jesus is Lord.

Why do we celebrate the life, light, love, and Lordship of Jesus?

1. **So that we can exalt this one who is both Lord and Christ to the Father's glory.**
 - a. *Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV84) 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
2. **So that we may believe in Jesus and receive life in his name.**

- a. [John 1:12] stresses that the purpose of the Word becoming flesh and bringing life and light into the world was that those who receive him, those who believe in his name, might become children of God. This corresponds to the stated purpose of the Gospel [of John]: 'Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name**' (John 20:30–31). (Kruse, Colin G. *John: An Introduction and Commentary*. Edited by Eckhard J. Schnabel. Second edition. Vol. 4. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. London: InterVarsity Press, 2017.)
3. **So that by believing in Jesus we may experience his resurrection life.**
 - a. *John 11:20–26 (NIV84) 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?".*

Which brings us to the question?

1. **Do you believe?** (in the Biblical sense to make a commitment and to get in action around what you believe)

Call to action:

1. **I invite you to start believing that Jesus is Lord and God.**
 - a. *John 20:27-31 (NIV) 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. **Stop doubting and believe.**" 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." 30 Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

2. **I invite you to receive Jesus as Lord of your life by believing in Jesus and following Jesus.**

- a. *John 1:10–14 (NIV84) 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 **Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God**— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- b. Welcome to the family of God, through Jesus, and by the Holy Spirit.