

“Jesus the Revealer”

Summary

What manner of man is this? This profound question asked by the disciples in the midst of a storm becomes our invitation to truly see Jesus—not as we imagine Him, but as He truly is. Through the lens of Luke 15 and Jesus' parables, we discover a God who shatters our human expectations. The Pharisees taught a God of distance and judgment, but Jesus revealed a Father who searches for the one lost sheep, who throws the wayward over His shoulders without making them walk home in shame. This isn't just poetic imagery—it's a complete redefinition of God's character. When we grasp that God never stops sowing seed, that He purchased even a potter's field of broken pieces to redeem strangers, we begin to understand the relentless nature of divine love. The miracles display His care, but the parables unveil His heart. To see Jesus clearly is to fall irrevocably in love with Him, and in that love, we find the power to turn the other cheek, to love our enemies, and to rejoice in tribulation—because He is kind to the unthankful and the evil. Our transformation begins when we stop projecting our human limitations onto God and start seeing Him through the revelation of Christ.

Main Points – Jesus the Revealer

Title: Jesus the Revealer: Discovering God's True Nature Through Christ

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores how Jesus reveals the true character and nature of God the Father, challenging distorted religious views and demonstrating God's compassionate, redemptive heart. Through examining Jesus' parables, miracles, and interactions, the message emphasizes that to truly see Jesus is to fall in love with Him. The sermon demonstrates how God uses trials, storms, and even betrayal to display redemption, showing that God is kind to the unthankful and evil. Jesus is presented as God's complete communication to mankind—the Word made flesh—who shows us how to love enemies, turn the other cheek, and rejoice in tribulation by revealing the Father's unfailing kindness and relentless pursuit of the lost.

Key Points:

- Jesus reveals the Father's true nature, correcting the Pharisees' legalistic and condemning view of God
- To see Jesus clearly is to fall in love with Him; we discover who we are when we discover whose we are

- God uses storms and trials not in vain but to expose areas needing adjustment and to produce patience, experience, hope, and love
- Jesus' miracles display His care and compassion; His parables reveal God's nature and kingdom principles
- God never stops sowing seed and pursues every lost person with joy, not condemnation
- Jesus is God's full and complete communication to mankind—the Word made flesh, the Alpha and Omega
- God uses everything, even betrayal and evil, to put redemption on display (illustrated by Judas' betrayal purchasing the potter's field)
- We can love our enemies and endure trials because God is kind to the unthankful and evil
- When we see Jesus for who He truly is, we are transformed into His image

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 8 (disciples in the storm)
- Luke 15 (Parable of the Lost Sheep, context for multiple parables)
- Luke 15:1-7 (The Lost Sheep)
- Romans 5:3 (glory in tribulation)
- Colossians 1:15 (image of the invisible God)
- Colossians 2:8-10 (warning against empty philosophy)
- Colossians 2:9 (fullness of the Godhead bodily)
- Hebrews 1 (God has spoken through His Son)
- Hebrews 12:24 (the blood of Jesus speaks)
- John 1:14 (the Word became flesh)
- Matthew 27:1-8 (Judas' betrayal and the potter's field)
- Luke 6:27-36 (love your enemies, be kind like God)
- Revelation 1:8 (Alpha and Omega)

Small Group Study Guide – Jesus the Revealer

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: Share a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or forgiveness when you didn't deserve it. How did that change your perspective?

Sermon Overview (5 minutes)

This week's message explored how Jesus reveals the true nature of God the Father to us. Through parables, miracles, and His life, Jesus shows us that God is not distant, angry, or harsh—but compassionate, pursuing, and redemptive. When we truly see Jesus for who He is, we cannot help but fall in love with Him.

Key Scripture: Luke 15:1-7 (The Parable of the Lost Sheep)

Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)

1. Understanding God's Character

- The sermon mentioned that the Pharisees had a corrupt vision of who God was. What are some common misconceptions people have about God today?
- How does the parable of the lost sheep challenge our understanding of God's response to sinners?
- Pastor Zach shared: "God takes the sheep and throws it over his shoulder" instead of making it walk home. What does this reveal about God's heart toward us when we wander?

2. Personal Reflection

- Which of the parables mentioned (lost sheep, prodigal son, lost coin, good Samaritan, etc.) speaks most powerfully to you about God's character? Why?
- The sermon stated: "We discover who we are when we discover whose we are." How has knowing God changed your understanding of your own identity?
- Have you experienced a "storm" in your life that later revealed something God wanted to adjust in you? What did you learn?

3. Jesus as the Revealer

- Read Colossians 1:15 and 2:9 together. How does Jesus being "the image of the invisible God" and having "the fullness of the Godhead bodily" impact how you approach knowing God?
- Pastor Zach said, "Jesus is God's entire alphabet—the A, the Z, and everything in between." What does this mean for how we study Scripture and understand God's will?

4. Responding to Revelation

- Read Luke 6:27-35. The sermon asked: "How can we turn the other cheek and love our enemies?" The answer: "Because He is kind to the unthankful and the evil." How does seeing God's kindness to us empower us to show kindness to others?
- Pastor Zach mentioned that even Judas' betrayal was used by God to purchase a potter's field for strangers. How does this encourage you about situations in your life that seem beyond redemption?

Key Takeaways (5 minutes)

Have group members share which of these resonated most with them:

1. To see Jesus is to love Him - When we truly see who He is, we cannot help but be transformed.
2. God uses everything for redemption - Even storms, betrayals, and our wandering are opportunities for God to reveal Himself.
3. Jesus reveals a God who pursues - God doesn't wait for us to clean ourselves up; He comes after us and carries us home.
4. The blood of Jesus speaks better things - Unlike Abel's blood crying for vengeance, Jesus' blood speaks forgiveness and mercy.
5. We become like what we behold - As we see Jesus clearly, we are transformed into His image.

Practical Applications (15 minutes)

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Study Jesus Through Parables

- Read one parable each day this week (suggestions: Luke 15, Matthew 13, Luke 10:25-37)
- Journal: "What does this parable reveal about God's character?"
- Share your discoveries with the group next week

Option 2: Practice "Because He Is Kind"

- Identify someone who has been difficult, unkind, or unthankful toward you
- Each day, pray: "Lord, help me show kindness to _____ because You are kind to the unthankful and evil"

- Look for one practical way to demonstrate kindness to that person

Option 3: Testimony of Provision

- Like Pastor Zach's testimony about the unexpected blessing, reflect on times God has provided for you in surprising ways
- Write down at least three examples of God's faithfulness
- Share one with someone who needs encouragement this week

Option 4: Check Your Boxes

- The sermon mentioned how Rachel "checked boxes" that led to unexpected provision
- Are there practical steps of obedience or wisdom you've been neglecting?
- Choose one area to be faithful in this week (finances, health, relationships, spiritual disciplines)

Prayer Focus (10 minutes)

Group Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for eyes to see Jesus clearly—not through human tradition or worldly philosophy, but as He truly is
- Thank God for specific ways He has revealed Himself to group members
- Pray for those experiencing "storms" that God would use these trials to reveal areas needing adjustment
- Ask for grace to extend the same kindness to others that God has shown to us
- Pray for anyone who needs to experience God as the pursuing shepherd who carries them home

Prophetic Prayer:

Allow time for members to share encouraging words, scriptures, or impressions they sense God speaking over one another.

For Further Study

- Series Review: If you missed earlier parts of this series, discuss what you've learned about Jesus as:
 - Part 1: The Redeemer (like Boaz to Ruth)
 - Part 2: The Pattern Son
 - Part 3: King of the Jews
- Recommended Reading:
 - Colossians 1-2 (Jesus as the fullness of God)
 - Hebrews 1 (God speaks through His Son)
 - The Gospel of Luke chapters 15-19 (Jesus' parables revealing God's heart)

Closing Thought

"Jesus reveals the Father to us. He shows us who God is, how God thinks. He shows us how God treats the unlovable, the undeserving, those caught in sin, those resistant to change. He puts God's heart into human language. All we have to do is look at Him. All we have to do is see Him. All we have to do is get to know Him. And guess what? You learn who God is."

Discussion Questions – Jesus the Revealer

How does the testimony about checking boxes and receiving an unexpected financial blessing demonstrate God's sovereignty in providing for our needs even when we're unaware?

In what ways does Jesus sleeping on a pillow during the storm reveal both His divine nature and His trust in the Father, and how can we cultivate that same trust in our own storms?

Why do you think Jesus used the disciples' storm experience to expose their lack of faith rather than simply calming the storm immediately?

How does the parable of the lost sheep challenge our human understanding of fairness and justice, especially when God leaves the ninety-nine to pursue the one?

What does it reveal about God's character that He carries the returning sheep home on His shoulders rather than making it walk back in shame?

Why were the Pharisees so resistant to Jesus's revelation of who God truly is, and what modern religious attitudes might mirror their resistance today?

How does understanding that Jesus is God's complete communication to mankind change the way we read and interpret Scripture?

What does it mean practically that Jesus purchased the potter's field—a place for broken, discarded things—and how does this reflect His heart for the broken in our lives?

How can meditating on the truth that God is kind to the unthankful and evil empower us to love our enemies and do good to those who hurt us?

In what areas of your life do you need to see Jesus more clearly so that transformation can begin to take place?

Scriptures – Jesus the Revealer

Directly Mentioned or Read:

1. Matthew 8 - The disciples in the storm (Jesus calms the wind and waves)
2. Romans 5:3 - Glory in tribulation; tribulation works patience
3. Luke 15:1-7 - The parable of the lost sheep (read in detail)
4. Colossians 2:8-10 - Warning against philosophy and empty deceit
5. Hebrews 1:1-2 - God has spoken to us by His Son
6. Hebrews 12:24 - The blood of Jesus speaks
7. John 1:14 - The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
8. Colossians 1:15 - Jesus is the image of the invisible God
9. Colossians 2:9 - In Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily
10. Revelation 1:8 - I am the Alpha and the Omega
11. Matthew 27:1-8 - Judas' betrayal and the potter's field (read in detail)
12. **Luke 6:27-35 - Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you (read in detail)

Alluded to or Referenced:

13. Philippians 2:9-10 - The name above every name; every knee shall bow
14. Book of Ruth - Ruth and Boaz, the kinsman redeemer (mentioned in context of Part 1 of the series)
15. Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on water (alluded to)
16. Mark 5:1-20 / Luke 8:26-39 - The Gadarene demoniac
17. Genesis 4:10 - The blood of Abel crying out for vengeance (referenced in contrast to Jesus' blood)
18. John 12:32 - "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to myself"
19. 2 Corinthians 3:18 - Transformed into the same image (alluded to in conclusion)
20. Ephesians 1:17-18 - Paul's prayer for eyes to be opened to the knowledge of God's glory (referenced in closing)

Parables Mentioned (General References):

21. Luke 15:8-10 - The parable of the lost coin
22. Luke 10:25-37 - The parable of the Good Samaritan
23. Matthew 20:1-16 - The parable of the workers in the vineyard
24. Luke 14:15-24 - The parable of the great banquet
25. Luke 13:6-9 - The parable of the fig tree
26. Matthew 13:24-30 - The parable of the wheat and tares
27. Matthew 25:1-13 - The parable of the ten virgins
28. Matthew 25:14-30 - The parable of the talents
29. Matthew 13:1-23 / Mark 4:1-20 / Luke 8:4-15 - The parable of the sower

Suggested Relevant Verses for Themes Discussed:

- John 14:9 - "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (Jesus as revealer of God)
- Matthew 11:27 - "No one knows the Father except the Son, and those to whom the Son wills to reveal Him"
- Romans 8:28 - "All things work together for good" (trials producing redemption)
- Isaiah 55:8-9 - "My ways are higher than your ways" (God's nature vs. human nature)

Devotional – Jesus the Revealer

5-Day Devotional: Discovering Jesus the Revealer

Day 1: The God Who Pursues

Reading: Luke 15:1-7 (The Parable of the Lost Sheep)

Devotional: Jesus reveals a Father who doesn't wait for us to find our way home—He actively pursues us. The shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for the one that wandered. When you feel lost in your wilderness, remember that God isn't standing at a distance with crossed arms. He's searching for you, and when He finds you, He doesn't make you walk home in shame. He carries you on His shoulders, rejoicing. Your return brings heaven more joy than you can imagine. Today, reflect on areas where you've wandered. God isn't angry—He's pursuing you with relentless love. Let Him carry you home.

Reflection Question: Where have you been hiding from God's pursuit, and how can you allow Him to carry you today?

Day 2: God's Communication in Flesh

Reading: John 1:1-18 (The Word Became Flesh)

Devotional: Jesus is God's complete alphabet—the full communication of heaven to humanity. Every word God has ever wanted to speak to you is embodied in Christ. When you look at Jesus healing the sick, you see God's compassion. When you watch Him forgive sinners, you witness God's mercy. When you see Him calm the storm, you understand God's power over your chaos. The invisible God made Himself visible so we could truly know Him. You don't have to guess what God thinks about you—look at Jesus. He reveals a Father who is full of grace and truth, who dwells among us, who makes Himself accessible. Today, ask Jesus to reveal the Father's heart to you in fresh ways.

Reflection Question: What aspect of God's character do you need Jesus to reveal more clearly to you right now?

Day 3: Redemption in Every Crisis

Reading: Romans 5:1-5 (Glory in Tribulation)

Devotional: God never wastes your storms. Every trial you face is positioning you to see Jesus more clearly and putting redemption on display. The disciples' terrifying storm led them to witness Jesus' authority over nature and eventually brought deliverance to the demon-possessed man in Gadarene. Your current struggle isn't meaningless—it's working patience, which produces experience, which builds hope. That hope will never disappoint because God's love is being poured into your heart through it all. Even when Satan means

something for evil, God purchases burial plots for broken pottery and says, "I can make something beautiful from this." Trust that your trial has purpose beyond what you can see.

Reflection Question: How might God be using your current difficulty to reveal His character and work redemption?

Day 4: The Blood That Speaks Better Things

Reading: Hebrews 12:18-24 (The Blood of Jesus Speaks)

Devotional: Abel's blood cried out for vengeance, but Jesus' blood speaks something far better—forgiveness, mercy, and complete acceptance. The blood of Jesus doesn't accuse you; it defends you. It doesn't condemn you; it cleanses you. Even the secret sins you think nobody knows about—Jesus knows, and His blood still speaks on your behalf. You're not saved by your works but by His finished work on the cross. When shame whispers that you're disqualified, remember that Jesus took your sins to hell and left them there. His blood speaks louder than your failures, louder than your past, louder than the enemy's accusations. Today, listen to what the blood is saying about you.

Reflection Question: What accusations are you believing that contradict what the blood of Jesus speaks over your life?

Day 5: Becoming Like the One We See

Reading: Luke 6:27-36 (Love Your Enemies)

Devotional: How can we possibly love our enemies, bless those who curse us, and rejoice in tribulation? Because He is kind to the unthankful and evil. When we truly see Jesus—how He treats the unlovable, forgives the undeserving, and pursues the resistant—we begin to transform into His image. You can turn the other cheek because He turned His face toward the cross for you. You can give without expecting return because He gave everything expecting nothing. You can extend grace because you've received infinite grace. The more you behold Jesus the Revealer, the more you become like Him. This isn't about striving harder; it's about seeing clearer. Fix your eyes on Him today, and watch your heart soften toward those who've hurt you.

Reflection Question: Who in your life needs to receive the same kindness from you that God has shown to you?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for revealing the Father to us. Open our eyes to see You more clearly, that we might love You more deeply and become more like You daily. In every storm, every trial, and every moment, help us recognize Your redemptive work. We love You because You first loved us. Amen.

