

EASTER *at*
First Baptist
GULFPORT

JESUS
changes
EVERY-
THING

DEATH *to*
LIFE

April 5, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

Jesus Changes Everything **Death → Life**

Scripture: Luke 24:5; Romans 6:23; John 10:10; John 11:25–26

Spotlight: Sin leads to death. Life is only found in Jesus.

Summary: Jesus came to make clear the great differences between death and life and to offer himself as the only choice for life. Jesus saves from death those who believe in Him by giving them life! Because of sin, humanity stands under the sentence of death, it is the default path of every life. The enemy works in our sinful condition to steal, kill, and destroy. But God has not left us without hope. Through Jesus Christ, He offers the free gift of eternal life—a life that begins the moment we believe and continues forever. Jesus is the only answer and alternative to death; Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. Jesus' resurrection reminds us that through His death and life, those who trust Him can move from spiritual death to real life now and forever.

Luke 24:5

Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?

- **Don't look for life *in the wrong place.***
The women went to the tomb to see Jesus' dead body.
- **Don't look for life *in the world.*** It is filled with death.
Life is only found in Jesus!

1. Sin Earns Death

Romans 6:23a

The wages of sin is death...

Death is not natural as part of God's original good design. Death is the paycheck of sin. Sin promises pleasure, freedom, and control, but it always pays in loss, separation,

decay, and death. Before resurrection life can be truly celebrated, the cause of death must be understood.

2. The Thief Works in Death and Destruction

John 10:10a

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy...

The enemy never gives life. He only takes. He steals truth, kills joy, destroys peace, and keeps people blinded to Jesus Christ's identity and love. Sin leads to death, and the enemy works in darkness to deepen ruin. Life apart from Jesus ends empty, broken, and condemned to die.

3. Jesus Gives Life as God's Free Gift

Romans 6:23b

But the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 10:10b

My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

- What sin earns, ***grace overrules.***

Jesus does not merely improve life; He gives life. Eternal life is not only length of life but a quality of life that begins now through union with Christ. GAL 2:20 Forgiveness, peace with God, purpose, hope, and new birth are all wrapped up in this gift.

4. Jesus Himself Is the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:25

I am the resurrection and the life...

Easter is not a celebration of an event; it is the celebration of the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus does not simply give resurrection—He is resurrection. He does not simply give life—He is life. Everyone who believes in Him will live and everyone who lives in Him has life death cannot destroy.

John 11:26

Do you believe this, Martha?

What do I need to believe and do to be saved from death and receive eternal life?

- **Believe** Jesus is the Son of God.
- **Believe** Jesus died for your sins.
- **Believe** Jesus rose from the dead.
- **Repent** of your sins and trust Jesus alone.
- **Receive** Jesus' forgiveness and new life.
- **Follow** Jesus as you wait for His return.

Next Steps:

You may be breathing, but are you alive in Christ?

Come **receive real life today.**

Life Application:

1. Romans 6:23 says death is the wages of sin. In what ways do people today minimize sin while still feeling the effects of death, emptiness, guilt, and separation from God? How have you seen that tension in your own life or in the culture around you?
2. Jesus said the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. What are some subtle ways the enemy works to drain spiritual life from a believer or an unbeliever without them immediately recognizing it? Which of those tactics seem most common in our time?
3. John 10:10 speaks of a "rich and satisfying life." How is that different from prosperity, comfort, success, or emotional ease? What does abundant life actually look like in a person who is suffering, grieving, or walking through hardship?
4. Many people are physically alive but spiritually dead. What are some signs that a person may be breathing, functioning, and even religious, yet not truly alive in Christ? How can someone honestly examine themselves without becoming either self-deceived or hopeless?
5. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Why is it important that Christians believe resurrection is rooted in the person of Jesus and not merely in a general hope for life after death? How does that shape the way we face funerals, suffering, aging, and fear?
6. In John 11, Jesus asked Martha, "Do you believe this?" Why is that question still the central Easter question for every hearer? What keeps people from answering it honestly, and what does genuine belief in Christ look like beyond mere agreement with facts?

7. How does the truth that eternal life is a gift guard us from two opposite errors: trying to earn salvation and treating grace casually? How should gratitude for this gift affect daily obedience, worship, and witness?
8. If Jesus truly changes everything from death to life, what specific areas of your life still need to come under His life-giving rule right now—habits, fears, relationships, hidden sin, despair, or spiritual apathy? What would repentance and renewed trust look like this week?
9. How can this sermon help believers speak to lost family members or friends in a way that is both urgent and hope-filled? What language from these passages could help us speak clearly about sin, death, and the life found only in Christ?
10. Easter often becomes familiar to church people. What part of this message most challenges you personally: the seriousness of sin, the reality of spiritual death, the destructiveness of the enemy, the freeness of grace, or the personal call to believe? Why and is the Lord directing you to do something in response to this message?