Bethlehem: What A Shepherd!

Holy Land Highlights | Week 1

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
My first trip to the Holy Land revolutionized my life and my walk with Jesus in a powerful way, and because of that, one of my favorite things to do now is to bring people back to the Holy Land with me, so they too can experience what I experienced when I first went 24 years ago. I wish every Christ follower could go just once, but I also understand the reality that most believers will never go. So, on my last tour, I had an idea pop into my mind. I thought, "If the majority of believers will never leave home and go to the Holy Land, then why don't we just bring the Holy Land back home?" So, over the course of this series, that's exactly what I'm going to attempt to do. Now, obviously, you can't get the full experience by watching a few sermons and writing in this sermon guide, but I hope these visuals will give you some context as we read God's word in the places where they happened.	
KEY POINTS	
 1. Jesus is the GOOD Shepherd (John 10:1-10) I've learned a lot over the years just by watching the Shepherds in the Holy Land. And I feel like the more I've watched them, the more I've been able to understand the character of Christ. Here's what I know today. A good shepherd: Protects His flock Guides His sheep Lays down His life for His sheep 	
2. Jesus is the GREAT Shepherd (Psalm 23) Some may wonder, "what is this Great Shepherd doing that makes him so great?" Here's what the Bible says: He is feeding and leading and renewing. And notice that all of these words are all in the present tense. - "He lets me" - "He leads me" - "He renews my life" - "He is with me" - "He comforts me" - "My cup overflows"	
Do you know what Psalm 23 is talking about? Today!! It's talking about how God meets us at our point of need today, in the present. He's with us today as our Great Shepherd. Just as Psalm 22 takes care of our past, Psalm 23 takes care of our present.	

Bethlehem: What A Shepherd!

Holy Land Highlights | Week 1

3. Jesus is the CHIEF Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4) If His redemption makes Him the Good Shepherd, and His resurrection makes Him our Great Shepherd, then it's His RETURN that makes Him the Chief Shepherd.	NOTES
Jesus is the Good Shepherd who died for his sheep. Jesus is the Great Shepherd who lives for his sheep. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd who returns for his sheep.	
The King of glory is coming! The Chief Shepherd is coming soon, and his name is JESUS! There's coming a day where we will see Him in all his glory. There's coming a day when our enemies will be defeated, our diseases will be cured, and our problems will all be solved.	
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Bethlehem: What A Shepherd!

Holy Land Highlights | Week 1

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Have you ever been to the Holy Land before? If so, what did you learn from your trip? If you've never been, are you interested in going?
- 2. What did you learn about Jesus as our Shepherd in today's message that you didn't already know?
- 3. Why do you think it's important that we pay attention to verb tense in Scripture, such as in Psalm 23?

Sea Of Galilee: Disciples of Jesus

Holy Land Highlights | Week 2 | Matthew 4:18-22

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
I love today's key passage of Scripture because it's here where we first see the steps to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. I believe you can summarize these steps with three things that Jesus does. I want us to unpack these three things today so that we can fully grasp what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. As we grasp these steps, we can begin (or continue) to implement them in our lives so that we can live a life fully devoted to following and serving the Lord Jesus.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Jesus comes to us. God is on the lookout for those "wholeheartedly devoted" to Him to give them peace, wisdom, direction, victory over addictions, and solutions to your problems that otherwise you wouldn't be able to find without Jesus Christ in your life.	
I don't know about you, but I want to catch God's eye! I want his eyes to fall upon me, upon my family, and upon my ministry. The Bible says God's favor falls upon those who are wholeheartedly devoted to Him! So, understand this todaythis wasn't just a casual stroll along the Sea of Galilee. It was an intentional search. Jesus was looking for them. He was coming to them. And don't miss this: He initiated it. He ALWAYS initiates a relationship with us.	
2. Jesus changes us. When Jesus comes to you, He does so because He loves you, and because He loves you, He desires to change you. You see, prior to you knowing Jesus, and before you followed Jesus, there was a lot that needed to be changed.	
When Jesus came to Simon, He changed his name, and He gave him a new purpose. When Jesus says, "Follow Me" that's another way of saying, "Change." [Verse 19], "Follow me," he told them," and I will make you fish for people." He said, "Follow me and I will change you."	

Sea Of Galilee: Disciples of Jesus

Holy Land Highlights | Week 2 | Matthew 4:18-22

Jesus was asking them, by faith, to pursue something that didn't know. He was asking them to experience total abandonment and a full surrender to Him. You'll never experience life change through Jesus without fully surrendering to Jesus, and that's what He was communicating when He extended his hand and said 'follow me.'	NOTES
3. Jesus works through us. Jesus didn't simply command His disciples to become fishers of people. He promised He would make them or cause them to fish for people.	
You say, how would following Jesus cause them to fish for people? Well, the same way following Jesus causes us to fish for people. Let me tell you why disciples of Jesus fish for people: You become like those you spend time with. More is caught than taught and spending time with Jesus causes you to be like Jesus and the Bible says He came to seek and to save that which is lost.	
The more time you spend with Jesus the more like Jesus you become. He not only redeems us, but He rubs off on us. The more time we spend with Jesus, the more we become like Jesus. So if we want Jesus to work through us, we must make the effort to spend time with Him.	

Sea Of Galilee: Disciples of Jesus

Holy Land Highlights | Week 2 | Matthew 4:18-22

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Have you left your nets and followed Jesus? Have you turned your back to what you know... what you're comfortable with in order to follow Jesus by faith? Have you fully surrendered to Jesus?
- 2. If you're following Jesus, can you honestly say that you're fishing for people today?

3.	Have you truly made your entire self available for Jesus to work through you for His purposes and to build His church? Have you made your energy available to Him, your time, your calendar, your money, your resources, your life?

Capernaum: Serving God

Holy Land Highlights | Week 3 | Mark 2:2-11

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
The question I want us to consider today is this: how do we love and serve the God who saved us? After all, I firmly believe that when you truly experience God, you should naturally want to serve God. In this message, we're going to look at a couple of different ways we can serve God based on what we learn from those who served well in Scripture. The people we're going to look at today set a great example of what it looks like to serve with the love of Jesus, so I think we would benefit to learn about and follow their example.	
KEY POINTS	
1. We serve God by serving others. So, these four men are carrying a paralyzed man on a mat, but what I want us to see is that serving this man didn't begin with bringing him. It began by seeing him. You won't bring someone until you truly see someone.	
If we're going to serve others well it begins by us seeing people the same way God sees them. You see, these friends didn't look at this paralyzed brother and just see his limitations or problems. They saw his potential! And they believed that Jesus could meet him at his point of need and heal him.	
Therefore, if we want to serve God, we must serve others well. And serving starts with seeing.	
2. We serve God by our faith. Don't minimize the power of your faith today. Hebrews 11:6 says, "Now without faith it is impossible to please God." You know what that tells me? It tells me that our lack of faith displeases God, which would also indicate that when we DO have faith, it pleases Him!	
In today's key passage, we see that God not only likes it when we have faith, but He responds to it and rewards it. He responded to the faith of these four friends and rewarded that faith by saving and healing their friend. Think about that. Without them serving their friend by demonstrating their faith, this miracle most likely doesn't happen.	

Capernaum: Serving God

Holy Land Highlights | Week 3 | Mark 2:2-11

As I've thought about this, it's made me wonder how many
miracles have I missed out on because of my own lack of faith? I
don't know about you, but I don't want to miss out on God's
miracles or blessings or favor. But the truth is, if I have a lack of
faith, the Bible indicates that lack of faith is displeasing to God.
And if God is displeased, then why would I expect Him to respond
or reward any of my requests?

As I've reflected on that recently, I've told the Lord repeatedly, "God, allow me to have a faith that catches your eye! Allow me to have a faith that is worthy of a response from You."

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Capernaum: Serving God

Holy Land Highlights | Week 3 | Mark 2:2-11

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	How often do we encounter people and completely lock in on their
	deficiencies, defects, and flaws?

- 2. Do you think you've missed out on any miracles because of your own lack of faith?
- 3. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the strength of your faith right now? How should you move forward based on that rating?

Caesarea Philippi – The Best Field Trip EVER!

Holy Land Highlights | Week 4 | Matthew 16:13-19

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
Jesus was always a great teacher, and one thing that made Him great (other than the fact that He's the Son of God) was that He knew how to use visual aids to communicate His message. Jesus loved using visual aids in his teaching. So now, as we come to Matthew 16 in this message, you can just imagine what it must have been like as the disciples went through the gates and approached the center of this pagan city. I believe the account we are going to focus on today will show us the greatest field trip ever. And I say that because of four things that we see in this story. Let's dive into those four things now.	
KEY POINTS	
1. The Location Jesus took His boys on a long journey in order to get them to this specific location. He wanted them in this location so that he could have a specific conversation. Location was always important to Jesus because He was able to like we've said, use symbols and analogies from the location to teach and create practical examples that His disciples and followers would understand. This story in Matthew 16 is no different.	
2. The Confrontation Not only did he love using visual aids Jesus also loved using probing questions as he taught and that's exactly what we see in this passage.	
So, here's Jesus, in the vicinity of this massive limestone rock that was dedicated to pagan worship and idolatry asking his disciples some probing questions. His first probing question was more general in nature in verse 13, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" His second question was more personal in verse 15, "Who do YOU say that I am?" And what makes it even MORE personal than that is the fact that Jesus asks the same question of us today. Who do you say that Jesus is?	
We may not be surrounded by false deities in the form of golden statues or pagan sanctuaries today, but we're still surrounded by things that draw our attention and our affections away from God. We're still surrounded by idols that we choose to make sacrifices to and choose to give our best to every single day.	

Caesarea Philippi – The Best Field Trip EVER!

Holy Land Highlights | Week 4 | Matthew 16:13-19

But that's the thing. We don't typically think of these things as idols. But the truth is, if we're giving our first and giving our best to something other than God, that thing is an idol. And that's the confrontational message Jesus was communicating in this particular instance in Matthew 16.	NOTES
3. The Confession When Jesus asked Peter the question, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter gave his confession and said: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Do you know how Peter got it right concerning Jesus Christ? The same way you'll get right! But only the Holy Spirit can show you that. I can preach it and teach it and we can sing songs about it, but only God can reveal the truth to us.	
And how does God the Father reveal to us who God the Son is? The same way He reveals truth in our hearts and minds: through the third person of the Holy Trinity: The Holy Spirit! Only the Holy Spirit can impart truth into your heart! That's what happened to Simon Peter that day.	
In the heart and mind and soul of Simon Peter first came conviction, then came confession. The Holy Spirit convicted Peter of the truth, He convinced him of the truth, and then Peter confessed that truth. He does the same thing today with you and me.	
4. The Proclamation Do you remember why Jesus brought them to Caesarea Philippi? For an object lesson, right? To match truth with vision. The vision was that huge rock of idolatry.	
But then Jesus said, "You are Peter, Petros, just a small rock, a pebble of a rock, an unstable piece of a rock. But "on this rock, (this Petra) on this massive rock, on this foundation rock, on this mighty rock, I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."	
Jesus IS THE ROCK, and He is building His church upon the confession of Peter back in verse 16 where he proclaimed, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."	
Do you want to know why the church of Jesus Christ continues to thrive through years of persecution and conflict? It's because of its foundation. The Church is built on a sure foundation, and that foundation is JESUS!	

Caesarea Philippi - The Best Field Trip EVER!

Holy Land Highlights | Week 4 | Matthew 16:13-19

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Who do YOU say Jesus is?
- 2. Consider these questions in regards to idolatry:
 - Do I love or treasure anything or anyone more than God?
 - Do I prioritize anything or anyone before God?
 - Does anything bring me more pleasure than the things of God?
 - Do I place my identity in anything over my status as a child of God?
 - Do I look to anything or anyone to meet my needs instead of God?
 - Do I seek fulfillment or satisfaction from anything outside of God?

3.	When was a time the Holy Spirit revealed something to you? What did you learn and how did your faith grow from that experience?

The House of Caiaphas - Jesus in the Pit

Holy Land Highlights | Week 5 | Matthew 26:57, 63-68, 27:1-2

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
In part five of our Holy Land Highlights series, we are going to discuss Caiaphas's house. This was a place of major significance in the story of Jesus' life and death. It is where Jesus was taken for the last night of His life before the crucifixion. So, what can we know about what happened from that Thursday night to Friday morning? Well, there's no biblical account that explains in detail what Jesus experienced that night, but we do know from history that there's a good possibility He was beaten in that dungeon and most likely spent His final night alone in that dark pit of condemnation, located in the deepest, darkest part of Caiaphas's house. So in this message, we're going to take a look at more details about this place of torture and better understand why it's so significant in Jesus' story.	
KEY POINTS	
1. It was a Solitary place. After being lowered down into the pit through a small hole on top, Jesus would have been physically confined. After being spat in his face and beaten and slapped, Jesus would have then been isolated in the pit, sitting alone in the darkness, waiting for the night to pass in a dirty, damp, dungeon. Have you ever found yourself in a deep, dark pit? Perhaps you're in a solitary place in your own pit of condemnation these days. May I tell you something? We have a Savior who sympathizes and empathizes with you today. He's been where you're at and you know what He said? "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28) We can find rest in him today! Jesus went into the pit for us so that we could escape the darkness.	
2. It was a Suffering place. Sometimes when I think about Jesus, I tend to forget that he was not only fully God, but He was also fully man. In His humanity, we can know that Jesus would have emotionally suffered as He dealt with sadness, anger, frustration, and feeling deserted and alone. I think about Him emotionally suffering as He sat there, bleeding in darkness isolated in that pit.	

The House of Caiaphas - Jesus in the Pit

Holy Land Highlights | Week 5 | Matthew 26:57, 63-68, 27:1-2

Think about the hopelessness experienced in that pit. Think about the tears that were shed and the sorrow that was felt. I'm confident that Jesus physically suffered in this place who wouldn't after being beaten, slapped, and spat upon? But I don't believe it was the physical suffering that hurt Him worst. I believe it was the emotional suffering of knowing what was coming.	NOTES
3. It was a Searching place. When you're in the dark pit of condemnation, your mind naturally begins asking "What if" questions. Now, Jesus in His divinity had a certain advantage with this, but most prisoners that find themselves in the pit have a mind that naturally thinks about the prospects of the future.	
When you're isolated and you're suffering, you would naturally wonder: • What if they leave me down here? • What if they let me starve to death? • What if they beat me more? • What if they execute me tomorrow?	
If you are condemned and suffering, you're always going to be wondering. But when Jesus went to the cross, He canceled condemnation! Condemnation doesn't have to define you, because Jesus came to refine you! We don't have to search and wonder anymore because Jesus took care of it all. He is the answer to all of our questions, all of our searching, and all of our wondering.	
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The House of Caiaphas - Jesus in the Pit

Holy Land Highlights | Week 5 | Matthew 26:57, 63-68, 27:1-2

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Have you ever felt like you were in a pit of darkness? How did that experience affect you?
- 2. Where do you go for comfort when you're suffering and feeling lonely?
- 3. Are there answers you're searching for right now? Have you gone to Jesus for guidance and direction in your search? If not, what is keeping you from seeking Him for answers?

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Garden of Gethsemane - Accepting the Father's Will

Holy Land Highlights | Week 6 | Matthew 26:26-46

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
As you read further in the gospel of Matthew, you see how the disciples reacted to all that Jesus went through in the final hours before His crucifixion. In His greatest hour of need, His closest friends scattered and left Him all alone. But before that, Jesus brought His disciples up on the Mount of Olives and told them to sit. As soon as they got to the Garden, Jesus told them to sit. Why is that? Well, that's the question we're going to answer in this message.	
KEY POINTS	
1. He arrived with a purpose. That purpose was to pray. This garden was a place that they frequently visited, a peaceful place where they would get alone to talk and pray. But this time, His arrival was different. This time Jesus was burdened and agonizing over what was about to happen. So He told the disciples to sit while He went away to pray.	
2. He agonized in anticipation. We know that Jesus came to the Garden to pray, but have you ever thought about His posture in prayer? His posture tells you everything you need to know about His heart.	
This wasn't a quick, "Take off your cap, bow your head and thank the Lord for the food—prayer." This was Jesus dropping to his knees and falling on His face and pleading with God the Father. He demonstrated at that moment humility and dependency like we've never seen before.	
This was the Son of God on His face, before His father, lying flat, with his nose in the dirt, agonizing to the point where His sweat beads become like drops of blood falling to the ground. The posture of his heart was reflected in the posture of his body. Jesus was agonizing over what was to come.	
3. He appealed to His Father. Jesus didn't want to be crucifiedso He appealed to His Father.	
Jesus prayed, "My Father if it is possible, let this cup pass from me." In other words, "if there's any other way, another cup, another method that would satisfy the claims of divine justice, and make salvation possible for lost sinners, let's take that other way." But according to God's Word, there wasn't.	

Garden of Gethsemane - Accepting the Father's Will

Holy Land Highlights | Week 6 | Matthew 26:26-46

No other name is given. No other way is known. That's why Jesus said, "Yet not as I will, but as you will." Jesus knew He was the ONLY way to salvation. In fact, He said it Himself in John 14:6. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." And that remains true, even today.	NOTES
4. He accepted His Father's will. There was no effort to escape the cross. Jesus knew His hour had come, and it was His acceptance of the Father's will that gave Jesus peace and a perfect calmness as he moved forward to meet his betrayer and begin his journey to the cross.	
Even in his anguish and in His appeal, he fulfilled the words of David in Psalm 40 which are also recorded in Hebrews 10.9: "See, I have come to do your will." He always knew what He came to do.	
Jesus said earlier in John 4.34, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." Jesus was on a mission from heaven, a mission that He knew would have to be fulfilled on a bloody cross and with an empty grave! And Jesus accomplished that mission!	
And when He prayed those words, "your will be done," You better believe there were shouts of joy throughout heaven and shrieks of defeat all throughout hell. Jesus accomplished His mission! He did! What the devil tried to stop in the Garden of Eden was fulfilled in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross of Calvary.	

Garden of Gethsemane - Accepting the Father's Will

Holy Land Highlights | Week 6 | Matthew 26:26-46

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	Do you find	d it difficult to	accept the Fat	her's will in	your life? If so	o, why:

2. Has there ever been a time when you asked God if there was another way for Him to accomplish His will in your life? What was the outcome of that situation?

3.	What kind of posture do you have when you pray? Is there anything you'd like to change about your posture of prayer?

Golgotha - Jesus Suffers The Cross

Holy Land Highlights | Week 7 | Luke 23:13-25

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
Today we are going to continue our journey through the Holy Land and make a stop at Golgotha – the place where Jesus was crucified and died for our sins. This is a pivotal stop on our Holy Land Highlights tour, one that makes this journey so significant. For if Jesus hadn't died, He wouldn't have had the chance to be resurrected and become the Savior of the world. So today, we're going to dive in and learn more about Golgotha and begin to understand why this is such a major location in the history of our faith and beliefs.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Golgotha is indeed a place. There is much debate to this day about the location of Jesus' crucifixion. In fact, we don't know for sure exactly where Golgotha is. There are a few different possible locations in the Holy Land. But what we do know from Scripture is that Golgotha is indeed a place. It's not a made-up setting of a story. It's the true location of where Jesus, our Lord and Savior, died. I would encourage you to further dive into studying God's Word and learn more about what it has to say about Golgotha.	
2. Golgotha has a purpose. There were three specific purposes of Golgotha that all play a part in the death of Christ. The first purpose was public execution. The second purpose was excruciating pain, and the third purpose was maximum humiliation. Jesus went through the worst death of anyone who's ever been on the earth, and all three purposes of Golgotha made contributed to the horror of His death.	
3. Golgotha was preceded by preparation. I want you to get an accurate picture of the path to the cross that Jesus took and the preparation that led to that moment. See, in the case of Jesus, John describes how the authorities prepared Jesus for Golgotha in chapter 19, beginning in verse one. That says, "Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers also twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on his head, and clothed him in a purple robe. And they kept coming up to him and saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews,' and we're slapping his face."	

Golgotha - Jesus Suffers The Cross

Holy Land Highlights | Week 7 | Luke 23:13-25

Jesus was mocked. He was scourged. He was taunted. He was slapped. He was spit upon. He was crowned with thorns. He was stripped of his garments. He was crucified on a cross. He was sacrificed. And he did all of that for you. He did all of that for you at a place called Golgotha. It was a place, it had a purpose, and it was preceded by preparation.

4. Golgotha produced provisions.

There are five provisions from God's Word that came from this place called Golgotha. They are:

- Demonstration
- Satisfaction
- Redemption
- Justification
- Salvation

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Golgotha - Jesus Suffers The Cross

Holy Land Highlights | Week 7 | Luke 23:13-25

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. What did you learn about Golgotha in today's message that you didn't already know? How might this new information impact your faith?
- 2. Have you ever been at a place in your life where you questioned the love of God? If so, what made you question His love?

3.	Which of the five provisions made by Golgotha do you often forget about or forget to thank God for?

The Garden Tomb - The Grave Is Empty

Holy Land Highlights | Week 8 | Mark 16; 1 Corinthians 15

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
I love the thought of Joseph of Arimethea, the man who let Jesus use his tomb, going home the night that Jesus was killed and telling his wife, "Hey honey, guess what? I have to confess to you, I gave my tomb away." In response, she might have looked at him and said, "Honey, how could you do that? You know how much it costs for us to have that tomb hewn out of the rock for me and for you and for our children and grandchildren." But his answer was pretty clear. He said, "Don't worry about a thing, He's gonna be outta here in three days." And guess what? He was right because Jesus' body was placed in the tomb, but three days later, He rose again. He did exactly what He said He would do. He is not here, for He has risen, and that's why we celebrate Him today.	
KEY POINTS	,
1. Jesus paid for our sins. Now all of us know what a substitute is. We all went to school and we had a substitute teacher. It's someone who takes someone else's place. They fill in for someone else. And that's exactly what Jesus did for you on the cross. I want you to get this picture in your mind, he filled in for you, he took your place. He died your death so that you could live his life. Do you get it? Listen, that's good news today. You ought to be smiling at the fact that Jesus died for you.	
2. Jesus put away our sins. In forgiving our sin, He put away our sin. It wasn't just that Jesus was buried in that tomb. Your sins were buried in that tomb with Him. Jesus not only went to the cross for you, but He went to the tomb for you. He not only took your place on the cross, but He also took your place in the tomb, because our sins, our past sins, our present sins, and our future sins, were buried with Jesus in the tomb. That's why His death and burial are still considered to be a part of the good news. Because by doing so, Jesus paid for our sins, yes, but He also put away our sins and will remember them no more.	

The Garden Tomb - The Grave Is Empty

Holy Land Highlights | Week 8 | Mark 16; 1 Corinthians 15

3. Jesus prevailed over our sins.

1 Corinthians 15:4 says, "He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, he was raised on the third day, according to the scriptures." Now I want you to notice when Paul said in verse three, that Jesus died for our sins, he was writing this and speaking this in the past tense, he was talking about something that's already happened. Also in verse four, when he said that, Jesus was buried, again, he's writing this and speaking this in the past tense. But when he announced in verse four, that Jesus was raised on the third day, when you look at that in the Greek New Testament, the verb translated raised literally says he has been raised on the third day. And it's written in the present tense.

I know it sounds like a minor detail, but it's important. He died for our sins, past tense. He was buried, past tense. But He has been raised, present tense. Here's what that tells us. It tells us that Jesus isn't only alive, Jesus is alive, and He will be alive forever more. That is the good news today. There is no greater truth than resurrection truth. And we ought to remember that today. We ought to live like that today. And we ought to remember that there's victory in Jesus because He prevailed over our sins.

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The Garden Tomb - The Grave Is Empty

Holy Land Highlights | Week 8 | Mark 16; 1 Corinthians 15

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	How does it make you feel to know that Jesus was the substitute for you and
	paid for your sins?

- 2. What can you learn about forgiveness from the way Jesus put away our sins?
- 3. How does what you learned in this message about the resurrection of Jesus increase or maybe reignite your faith?

The Boat Dock - Complete Restoration

Holy Land Highlights | Week 9 | John 21

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
Your response to failure will either move you away from God or it'll make you more like God. And many times, we get it right, but a lot of times, we get it wrong. In today's message, we're going learn from Peter's life how we can get it right beginning today. None of us enjoy talking about our shortcomings, but the truth is God can use the failure in your life to develop you as a disciple of Jesus Christ in a way that success never will. Your ego runs away from failure and let me tell you why. Because failure kills pride. But God uses failures in many ways for the purification and the preparation that's required for personal sanctification. You look at your own life and you say, "I really want to be more like Jesus." Then I would say, let's lean in and let's learn how to respond to failure in a way that is pleasing to Him.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Jesus reveals Himself to us. Jesus didn't come to play hide and go seek with you. Jesus is not hiding from you today. He doesn't move away from you today. He's not hiding this face from you. The Bible says that Jesus comes to us, and He meets us at our point of need. And He reveals himself to us in a way that only He can. God wants you to know Him. He wants you to walk in a relationship with Him. And I love the words that John uses here in verse one. He said that Jesus revealed himself again. Aren't you glad that Jesus reveals himself to us again? Not just one time, but many times? He never gives up on us.	
2. Jesus demonstrates His power to us. In today's key passage of Scripture, we read about how Jesus performed the miracle of allowing the disciples to catch 153 fish after they hadn't been able to catch anything all morning. He demonstrated His power in order to let them know who He was and what He was capable of doing. Jesus does the same in our own lives today. If we peel our eyes and look expectantly for Him to show up, He demonstrates His power to us in order to encourage us and strengthen our faith in Him.	

The Boat Dock - Complete Restoration

Holy Land Highlights | Week 9 | John 21

3. Jesus addresses what needs to be addressed. Maybe you have failed the Lord. Maybe no one even knows that except for you. But maybe through your actions or your attitude or	NOTES
your choices, you can say today, honestly, before God, you've failed Him and you've turned away from Him. Perhaps you're	
saying, "I can admit that I am bent on backsliding away from God." You've wandered from him. You've disobeyed him. Many of us can say we've robbed Him of what belongs to Him. And now	
we're wondering, honestly, if God could still use us. Can God bless us? Can God restore our relationship with Him?	
Well, let me just remind you of what we've read so far in the 21st chapter of John. First of all, there's no guarantee you won't fail. In	
fact, you will fail. But secondly, there is no failure so bad that the grace of God cannot restore. Jesus will address our failure when it	
needs to be addressed, but He will also restore it. That should be an encouragement to all of us.	
4. Jesus moves us to action. The call of Jesus is consistent. It never changes. When Jesus first	
called Peter as a disciple, He said two words, "Follow me." He said, "Follow me," on that first day. And then many years later, after much life and many failures, we see Jesus say the same thing	
that He said at the very beginning. He said, "Follow me."	
In other words, Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, I forgive you. I take you back." And then He goes on to give him some insight. He gives him some insight, and He's talking about the way that his life is	
going to end. He's basically saying by doing what I'm asking you to do, it's going to cost you your life. And yet, even after the insight was given, Jesus concludes with the same two words. He said, "Follow me." He extends the same call to action to us. He is asking us to follow Him. The question is, are we willing to follow Him	
despite our failures? Are we willing to follow Him if we know it will cost us everything?	

The Boat Dock - Complete Restoration

Holy Land Highlights | Week 9 | John 21

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. How do you love Jesus? Why do you love Jesus? What kind of love do you have for him?
- 2. Would you say today that you love Jim because of the good things He's blessed you with, because of the family and the friends and the resources and all the things that He's given you throughout your life? Or do you that your love is based on the fact that He saved you and forgave you and redeemed your life?

3.	When was a time you experienced failure, and that failure held you back from pursuing God's call on your life? What did you learn from that experience?