

JESUS ABOVE ALL

A 5-Day Devotional

Colossians 1:15–20

Jesus above all changes everything below.

DAY 1 — WHO IS AT THE CENTER?

READ Colossians 1:15–18

“Everything was created through him and for him.” — Colossians 1:16

DEVOTIONAL

One of the oldest surviving maps of the world is a small clay tablet made roughly 2,600 years ago. The people who made it mapped everything they knew—the land, the water, even mysterious places beyond the edge of their explored world.

And right in the middle?

Babylon.

They put themselves at the center.

We still do the same thing.

We may not draw maps on clay tablets, but each of us carries an invisible map of our life. On it are our family, career, relationships, dreams, responsibilities, problems, finances, plans and future.

And naturally, we put ourselves in the middle.

Then somewhere along the way, we discover Jesus.

So we add Him to the map.

Maybe He becomes very important. We attend church. We pray. We read Scripture. We want Him involved in our marriage, our parenting and our decisions.

But Paul makes a much bigger claim about Jesus in Colossians 1.

Jesus doesn't simply belong **somewhere on the map**.

He belongs at the center.

Paul says Jesus existed before everything. Everything was created through Him and for Him. He holds everything together. He is supreme over creation and the head of the church.

In other words, Jesus isn't asking to become one more important part of your life.

He is the One your entire life was created to revolve around.

That's a significant shift.

Instead of asking, “*Jesus, how do You fit into what I'm trying to accomplish?*” we begin asking, “*Jesus, what are You doing, and how does my life fit into it?*”

Instead of asking God to bless our map, we hand Him the map.

And here's the beautiful part: getting ourselves out of the center isn't bad news. It's freedom.

You were never meant to carry the weight of making everything work. The center is already occupied by Someone far more capable of holding it together.

Jesus.

REFLECT

- If someone looked at how you spend your time, energy and attention, what would they conclude is at the center of your life?
- Where have you included Jesus without actually surrendering control to Him?
- What would change if Jesus truly became the center of your “map”?

PRAY

Jesus, I confess how naturally I put myself at the center. I want You involved in my plans, but sometimes I struggle to surrender those plans to You. Today, remind me that my life was created through You and for You. Take Your rightful place at the center and teach me to build my life around You. Amen.

TODAY'S STEP

Before making a decision today, pause and ask:

“Jesus, what do You want here?”

DAY 2 — CREATED FOR HIM

READ Colossians 1:16–17

“Everything was created through him and for him.” — Colossians 1:16

DEVOTIONAL

There are two little words in Colossians 1:16 that change everything.

Through Him.

And:

For Him.

We're often comfortable with the first one.

Jesus created everything. The mountains. The galaxies. The oceans. Humanity.

Everything we can see and everything we can't.

That's enormous—but it can still remain somewhat distant.

Then Paul says everything was created **for Him**.

That's personal.

Because “everything” includes you.

Your abilities were created for Him.

Your relationships are for Him.

Your work is for Him.

Your family is for Him.

Your resources are for Him.

Your ordinary Tuesday afternoon is for Him.

Your entire life was designed to find its purpose in Jesus.

That confronts one of our deepest assumptions: that our life ultimately belongs to us.

We often approach Jesus as though we have constructed a life and are now inviting Him into it.

“Jesus, help my marriage.”

“Jesus, bless my plans.”

“Jesus, help my career.”

“Jesus, fix this problem.”

Those aren't bad prayers. But eventually Jesus invites us into something deeper. Instead of simply asking Jesus to participate in **our** life, we begin recognizing that our life already belongs to **Him**.

Paul says Jesus existed before anything else and holds all creation together.

That means the One asking for your surrender isn't a stranger.

He's the One already holding you.

Maybe you're carrying something today that you've been desperately trying to control.

A relationship.

A decision.

Your future.

Your children.

Your finances.

Your reputation.

You were never created to hold everything together.

Jesus already does.

The question isn't whether Jesus can be trusted with your life.

The question is whether you'll stop trying to occupy a position that was always His.

REFLECT

- What area of your life feels most like “mine” right now?
- Where are you asking Jesus to bless your plans instead of asking Him to lead them?
- What are you currently trying to hold together that you need to entrust to Jesus?

PRAY

Jesus, everything I have come from You, and everything I am belongs to You. Forgive me for holding tightly to things that were always Yours. My family, my work, my future, my resources and my plans are Yours. Teach me to live today remembering that I was created for You. Amen.

TODAY'S STEP

Choose **one thing you've been trying to control** and deliberately surrender it to Jesus in prayer.

Say:

“Jesus, this belongs to You.”

DAY 3 — GOD HAS A FACE

READ Colossians 1:15, 19–20

“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.” — Colossians 1:15

DEVOTIONAL

For generations, God's people worshiped a God they could not see. Moses once asked to see God's glory. Yet God told him that no human could see His face and live.

God was present.

God spoke.

God moved.

But He remained unseen.

Then Paul writes an astonishing sentence:

“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.”

The God nobody could see now had a face.

Jesus.

That means whenever you've wondered, *“What is God actually like?”* you have somewhere to look.

Look at Jesus.

Watch who He touches.

Watch who He welcomes.

Watch who He eats with.

Notice what makes Him angry.

Notice what breaks His heart.

Watch how He responds to the rejected, the religious, the broken, the powerful and the forgotten.

And ultimately, look at the cross.

Paul says that God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Jesus and that through Jesus, God reconciled everything to Himself.

Think about that.

The hands that hold creation together are the hands that were stretched out and nailed to a cross.

The One who created humanity entered His creation.

The people He made rejected Him.

And He willingly gave Himself for them.

Then three days later, He walked out of the grave.

That's what God is like.

Powerful enough to create everything.

Humble enough to enter what He created.

Loving enough to give Himself to rescue it.

Maybe your picture of God has been shaped by disappointment, religious experiences, other people's opinions or assumptions you've carried for years.

Go back to Jesus.

Don't merely study facts about Him.

Watch Him.

Because when you see Jesus clearly, you're seeing the heart of God.

REFLECT

- When you picture God, what characteristics immediately come to mind?
- Have your experiences with people or churches shaped your view of God more than Jesus has?
- What do Jesus' actions toward broken and hurting people reveal about God's heart?

PRAY

Jesus, show me what God is really like. Strip away the assumptions and distorted pictures I've collected over the years. Help me see Your compassion, holiness, authority, mercy and love. Let knowing You change the way I understand God. Amen.

TODAY'S STEP

Read **one chapter from the Gospel of Mark** today.

Don't rush to analyze it.

Simply watch Jesus.

Ask:

“What does this show me about God?”

DAY 4 — FROM ME → WE → HE

READ Colossians 1:18

“Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.”

DEVOTIONAL

Most of us walk into a church asking perfectly normal questions.

Do I like this?

Do I fit here?

Did I get anything out of the message?

Do I like the music?

That's **ME**.

And there's nothing unusual about starting there.

The problem comes when we never grow beyond it.

Over time, something beautiful can happen.

ME becomes **WE**.

We learn people's names.

Someone notices when we're missing.

We join a Community Group.

We pray for one another.

We serve together.

Church stops being a building we attend and becomes people we belong with.

That's growth.

But Paul invites us even further.

ME → WE → HE.

Jesus is the head of the church.

Not the mascot.

Not an honored guest.

Not simply the theme of Sunday morning.

The Head.

Which means ultimately the question isn't:

"What did I get out of church today?"

It's:

"Jesus, what are You doing here?"

Who is God reaching?

Who needs encouragement?

Who walked through the doors carrying something heavy?

Who needs someone to sit beside them?

Where can I serve?

Who can I pray for?

How can I participate in what Jesus is already doing?

Suddenly church looks different.

You can sing a song that isn't your favorite because the worship isn't about you.

You can welcome someone you've never met because maybe God has been working in their life for years.

You can serve when it isn't convenient because Jesus' purposes become more important than your preferences.

The goal isn't to stop having preferences.

It's to stop allowing our preferences to become the center.

That's spiritual maturity.

We move from:

What do I want?

to:

What do we need?

and eventually:

Jesus, what are You doing—and how can I join You?

REFLECT

- Where are you currently living primarily from ME?
- Who are the people God has given you to move toward WE?
- How would Sunday look different if you entered asking, “Jesus, what are You doing here today?”

PRAY

Jesus, You are the head of Your church. Forgive me for the times I've treated church primarily as something designed for me. Give me eyes to see what You are doing in the people around me. Help me move from ME, to WE, and ultimately to HE. Use me for Your purposes. Amen.

TODAY'S STEP

The next time you're at church, intentionally find **one person to encourage, welcome, pray for or serve.**

Walk in asking:

“Jesus, who can I love today?”

DAY 5 — JESUS ABOVE ALL CHANGES EVERYTHING BELOW

READ Colossians 1:15–20

“So he is first in everything.” — Colossians 1:18

DEVOTIONAL

If Jesus is truly above all, then nothing underneath Him can remain untouched.

That's where this becomes personal.

It's one thing to say Jesus is supreme over creation.

It's another to recognize His authority over **me.**

My preferences.

My schedule.

My money.

My marriage.

My parenting.

My private life.

My ambitions.

My comfort.

My future.

Jesus doesn't simply want first place on a list.
He's not one priority sitting above several other priorities.
Paul's vision is much bigger.

Jesus is above the entire list.

Everything was created through Him.
Everything was created for Him.
He existed before everything.
He holds everything together.
He is the head of the church.
He reconciles us to God through the cross.
He is first in everything.

And when we recognize that we've put ourselves back in the center, the answer isn't simply:

"I'll try harder."

Scripture gives us a better word.

Repent.

Repentance means admitting we've been walking in the wrong direction, turning around and walking the road Jesus is actually calling us down.

It's surrendering our map for His.

And that surrender changes everything.

Imagine a church filled with people who stop asking primarily, *"What's in this for me?"*

Imagine people praying for God to move instead of grading everything according to personal preference.

Imagine homes centered on Jesus.

Marriages centered on Jesus.

Friendships centered on Jesus.

People serving their community because they genuinely believe God's purposes are greater than their comfort.

That's more than a nicer church.

That's a people aligned with the way they were created.

And it begins with a simple realization:

You are not the center of everything.

That might sound like bad news.

It's actually incredibly good news.

Because the center isn't empty.

It's occupied by the One who made you.

The One who holds you.

The One who stepped into your story.

The One who gave His life for you.

Jesus.

And when Jesus takes His rightful place, everything else begins finding its proper place too.

REFLECT

- What has Jesus revealed this week about the current center of your life?
- What preference, habit or area of control is He asking you to surrender?
- If Jesus truly had authority over everything in your life, what would need to change?
- Where might God be inviting you to participate in what He's doing around you?

PRAY

Jesus, You are above all. I confess the places where I've put myself back in the center. I surrender my preferences, plans, relationships, resources and future to You. Reorganize whatever needs to change in me. I don't simply want You included in my life—I want my entire life oriented around You. Use me for Your purposes and Your glory. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Take five quiet minutes and write these three words:

ME → WE → HE

Ask yourself:

Where am I now?

Then pray:

“Jesus, move me toward Your heart, Your people and Your purposes.”

JESUS ABOVE ALL

You are not the center of everything.

And that's good news.

Because the center isn't empty.

Jesus is there.

The One who made you.

The One who holds you.

The One who stepped into your story.

The One who gave Himself for you.

JESUS ABOVE ALL CHANGES EVERYTHING BELOW.