

“JESUS: Yesterday, Today and Forever”

JESUS—five letters, two syllables, one cross, three nails—but a powerful Name! He became one of us so that we might become one with Him. He entered our world so that ultimately, we could enter into His world. We should never become so comfortable with Jesus that He’s not producing change in our lives. Hebrews 13:8 says, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*” He was in the *past* exactly who He is in the *present* and precisely who He will be *forever*. Jesus is the centerpiece of everything!

JESUS *yesterday* is where our salvation begins. Jesus left His place to come to our place to take my place so that I could spend all of eternity with Him in His place!

JESUS *today* refills our souls so we don’t have to run on empty. Jesus always meets us where we’re at and offers us encouragement and gives us His presence. The Jesus of *today* comes where you are and stands by your side.

The **JESUS of *tomorrow/forever*** lets us in on His plans for the future so we can have established priorities for our lives today. If we can grasp Jesus’ words in Matthew 24, we won’t trip all over ourselves when things unfold in the Last Days. Jesus gives us seven directives:

- 1) In the time of deception keep your head (see Matthew 24:4-5, 11)
- 2) In times of war stay calm (see Matthew 24:6-7). One British Pastor said, “*We live in a world that will war from Armageddon to Armageddon, but we serve a Lord who reigns from everlasting to everlasting.*”
- 3) In times of disaster remain confident (see Matthew 24:7)
- 4) In times of persecution stay strong (see Matthew 24:9)
- 5) In times of betrayal remain faithful (see Matthew 24:10)
- 6) In times of lawlessness love strong (see Matthew 24:12)
- 7) In times of bad news preach the Gospel (see Matthew 24:14). Don’t get sidetracked when global disaster happens; don’t allow the enemy to use that to push you off-mission—stay in the Gospel-lane. Don’t ever compromise your testimony or the power of the Gospel by how you act or respond when you witness troubled and uncertain times.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Never forget the miracle of your salvation. *Think about the Lord – how He saved you, raised you, picked you up and turned you around, how He set your feet on solid ground.*
2. Position yourself close enough to Jesus so that He can breathe on you and cause you to receive the Holy Spirit.
3. Keep your head wrapped around God’s truth.
4. Make eye-contact with Jesus.