

1. GOD LOVES YOU and wants you to have eternal life with Him.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a SIN problem which SEPARATES him from GOD. Every one has sinned.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

3. The good news is that JESUS CHRIST is God's solution to your sin problem. He is the ONLY way to heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."

4. Therefore you must REPENT of your sins and place your FAITH in JESUS alone to save you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a NEW LIFE with complete assurance of SALVATION.

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Jesus for Today

John 20:10-18

Last week's message

Easter Sunday is the day we celebrate Resurrection. But the Bible also draws attention to Good Friday and the crucifixion that is at the very center of Christian faith. The four gospel accounts in the New Testament-four different perspectives of the life of Jesus- all focus their attention on the last days of Christ's life. We read about His birth and yet we do not have much details of His growing up years. The gospel focuses on the last days of His life, and then the camera lens slows down, and every step towards the cross is recounted. The disciples are giving us a clear message, that this is why He came. His death on the cross was purposeful.

Our story today is part of John's resurrection account. It is a follow through of the crucifixion and it helps us complete the story. It validates everything that God was doing on the cross and it doesn't leave Jesus there. Because if Jesus had not risen from the dead, He would have died and that would have been the end of the story, and death would have won the victory and our sins would still remain. We wouldn't have known that He had paid and become the atoning sacrifice for us. It is the resurrection that God validates and says "...this is the victory over sin, this is your savior".

In this story we have an amazing account of the very first encounter with the risen Christ. First, this story helps us understand that the gospel accounts can be trusted. Secondly, Mary's encounter with the Lord is something that makes sense of the resurrected Jesus that we no longer see in a physical way. Third we see that John intended for us to know that there is an invitation for us to believe and have faith. In verse 31, John says "But these are written that you may believe."

Our text presents the resurrection of Christ as a historical event and marks the authenticity of the account. Myths and fables of the ancient world were meant to glorify the heroes of the days. But there is no hero in this story, just Mary, bumping along when she thought that Jesus was gone. All of these details are very unflattering. In the ancient world, myths were written clearly as a myth and not combined with actual history. Students of ancient literature know that the story of Jesus is not a myth, but a historical account. So the first question is authenticity, and it is supported by how the story unfolds.

The third question is our concern that if Jesus is indeed the Son of God, why did He not show Himself more powerfully? We see this answer in how Jesus reveals Himself. When Mary clings to Him, He says "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them I am returning to my Father, your Father, to my God and your God".

Jesus is risen. He is not the same, but something new has come. We are reminded of what Jesus said in the Upper Room when He was with His disciples. He says "I am going to leave you but I won't leave you alone. I will send my Spirit and my Spirit will live among you. We will be one". The Spirit of my Father and my Spirit will dwell in you. This wonderful promise also gives us an invitation. Mary's encounter with the Lord fills us with hope. Seekers, even confused seekers can find Jesus. Seek and you will find. Mary wasn't there because she was religious, rich, successful or smart. She was determined to know Jesus Christ.

The second thing we see is that Jesus is calling us to Himself. When Jesus called her name, it was a transforming moment for Mary. Jesus said "I am the good shepherd. My sheep know my voice."

If you have had an encounter with Christ, it will be like He has spoken your name. That encounter is that moment when the spirit of God convicts you, looks into your heart, and says "Come to me". If you have never opened up your heart to Christ, I pray that you would not pull back in fear, but you would recognize that He knows you and He loves you, and He died on the cross for your sin and He wants to give you His life and a hope for eternity.

# Life-giving Words from the Cross

April 23, 2017 | 10am  
700 Royal Ave. New West

## Order of Service

- Call to worship
- Praise and worship
- Children dismissal
- Announcements
- Testimony: Butch De Jesus
- Sermon
- Response song
- Benediction

A Discipleship Group or D-Group is a great opportunity to meet regularly with a small group of people from CCF to study the bible, pray and support each other. **Join us!**



## Grow **BIG** in a *small* dgroup!

Sunday	Wednesday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Single Ladies' Group</b> (New West) 1:00 – 3:00pm	<b>Couples' Group</b> (Surrey) 7:00 – 9:00pm  <b>Single Ladies' Group</b> (Richmond) 7:00 – 8:30pm	<b>Single Ladies' Group</b> (Vancouver) 5:30-7:30pm	<b>Couples' Group</b> (Richmond) 4:30-6:30pm
<b>DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY</b>			
<b>Women's Group</b> (Vancouver)			
<b>Mixed Women's Group</b> (Surrey/Skype)			
<b>Young Men's Group</b> (Richmond/Burnaby)			
<b>Couples' Group</b> (Tri-cities)			

For Inquiries: ☎ (778) 255-5777 ✉ [contact@ccfvancouver.org](mailto:contact@ccfvancouver.org)

Join us for our **IDR** on June 9-11, 2017 at Charis Camp & Convention Center, Chilliwack, BC. Deadline to register is on May 14, 2017.



## Giving

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first and best part of all your income. Then your barns will be full, and your vats will overflow with fresh wine.  
PROVERBS 3:9-10



... is our Sunday School ministry for kids aged 3 to 12. Through a Bible-based curriculum, we aim to inspire children to become Christ-committed followers.

NXTGen classes are held every Sunday, and conducted simultaneously with our worship service. Lessons are easy to understand, creative, and strongly encourage parent-child interaction.

Please use CCF tithe envelopes (available at usher's table) for ALL tithes, offerings and donations. Our tithe box is located at the usher's table.

*If you're giving via cheque, please write it to CCF Vancouver.*

You can now give ONLINE!! Just go to <http://www.ccfvancouver.org/give/> to donate. Thank you.