

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, April 24, 2022

“Come Alive: Saying ‘Yes’ to Jesus”

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Easter doesn't just celebrate a single day, but an entire season in the Christian calendar that begins on Easter Sunday and continues for 7 weeks. This 7-week period is known as \_\_\_\_\_ or the Great Fifty Days.

Easter is God's invitation to us today to live a \_\_\_\_\_. A life changed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of resurrection—the same power that raised Jesus from the dead that first Easter morning.

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“Jesus included everyone in his death so everyone could be included in his life—a far better life than people lived on their own.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 Msg)

Like Jesus, God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ this Easter season. He wants us to grasp hold of the \_\_\_\_\_ life that Jesus won for us on the Cross.

“Behold, I make all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)

A central part of Christian discipleship involves the \_\_\_\_\_ of our character and our behaviour. A process whereby we become in a very real and physical sense the new creation that we already are in the \_\_\_\_\_ sense.

Jesus doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ Himself on us, but simply offers us this \_\_\_\_\_  
“I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.” (Revelation 3:20)

### SAYING ‘YES’ TO JESUS: 3 CHANGES

**#1. Saying ‘yes’ to Jesus opens our lives to new \_\_\_\_\_.**

“God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of His Son and our master Jesus.” (1 Corinthians 1:9 Msg)

God has hard-wired into each one of us a desire to \_\_\_\_\_. Our hearts have an innate desire and a yearning for a life of excitement, \_\_\_\_\_, and purpose; a life that no amount of \_\_\_\_\_ power, prestige, or possessions could ever provide.

Saying ‘yes’ to Jesus, opens our lives to an adventure beyond our imagination

because it takes us places—both externally into the world and \_\_\_\_\_ within ourselves.

When it comes to adventure, many of us have settled for far \_\_\_\_\_ than God wants for us.

There are so many people and places who need to know what you believe and why? And the reason for the \_\_\_\_\_ that's within you.

**Have you said ‘yes’ to Jesus? Do you need to say ‘yes’ to Him again?**

**#2. Saying ‘yes’ to Jesus opens our lives to God's \_\_\_\_\_.**

“By His mighty power at work within us, God is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.” (Ephesians 3:20)

When we say ‘yes’ to Jesus, the \_\_\_\_\_ we're longing for, the yearning in our heart for life to be radically different, become \_\_\_\_\_.

Scripture, and indeed human history, is full of stories of men and women whose lives were \_\_\_\_\_ by God. Ordinary people like you and me doing \_\_\_\_\_ things through the power of His Holy Spirit.

So often, we focus on the things we don't like about ourselves; on what we perceive to be our \_\_\_\_\_; on the ways we wish we were \_\_\_\_\_; on what we don't have, or why we can't do something. We need to accept who we are and trust that when we say ‘yes’ to Him, He can take what we have—what He's given us—and what feels like so little, \_\_\_\_\_ it, and use it to do great things.

“Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)

God \_\_\_\_\_ us—just as we are and He \_\_\_\_\_ us, just as we are. Jesus isn't interested in our ability to always get it right or even in our desire to be successful, but rather in our willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ and be used by Him for God's glory

**Have you said ‘yes’ to Jesus? Do you need to say ‘yes’ to Him again?**

**#3. Saying ‘yes’ to Jesus, opens our lives to His \_\_\_\_\_.**

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you!” (Isaiah 26:3)

Real and lasting peace comes from living one's life within God's \_\_\_\_\_ and purpose; and in God's \_\_\_\_\_.

### 8 FACTORS OF EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL STABILITY

- The absence of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Not living in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Not wasting time and energy fighting conditions you can't \_\_\_\_\_.
- Force yourself to stay \_\_\_\_\_ with the living world.
- Refuse to indulge in \_\_\_\_\_ when life hands you a raw deal.
- Cultivate the old-fashioned virtues of: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Don't expect \_\_\_\_\_ of yourself.
- Find something \_\_\_\_\_ than yourself to believe in.

"I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe."  
(Psalm 4:8)

In the midst of all the noise and \_\_\_\_\_ of the world, God wants us to know His peace. And the key to having perfect peace in hearts is to \_\_\_\_\_ our thoughts on Jesus.

"...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:2)

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6)

"I've told you all this so that in trusting Me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace." (John 16:33)

Saying 'yes' to Jesus inevitably leads to a heart that's no longer \_\_\_\_\_ and no longer searching for \_\_\_\_\_ thrills. A heart that's lit up passionately from the inside, yet calm in spirit because we're no longer trying to do it on our \_\_\_\_\_, and in our own strength, but rather find our source and strength in Him.

**Have you said 'yes' to Jesus? Do you need to say 'yes' to Him again?**



Our simple 'yes' to Jesus is the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ that we will ever pray.

**Are you will to yes to Jesus this morning—for the fist time of the 100<sup>th</sup> time?  
Easter changes everything. How will it change you?**

**"Behold," Jesus says; "I make all things new."**

**NOTES:**