

## Turning to Jesus When You Feel Devastated

Every one of us knows what it feels like to be devastated. Maybe it was a phone call that changed everything. Maybe it was a betrayal you never saw coming. Maybe it was a loss that left a hole you still don't know how to fill. Maybe it was the slow, grinding weight of disappointment that finally broke something inside you. Devastation doesn't ask permission. It doesn't knock. It just walks in, sits down, and refuses to leave. And when it does, we often don't know what to do with ourselves. Some shut down. Some lash out. Some numb the pain. Some pretend they're fine. But Scripture gives us a better way—not a quick fix, not a cliché, but a Person. When you feel devastated, **turn to Jesus**.

*When you feel devastated, turn to Jesus because he understands your pain.* The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus understands when we are distressed. He said, ***“We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses...” (Hebrews 4.15).*** Jesus experienced many things in His life that could have affected Him in the same way. He was betrayed by a friend. He was abandoned by His closest followers. He wept at a graveside. He cried out in agony in Gethsemane. He suffered injustice, cruelty, and rejection. When you come to Jesus with your devastation, you're not talking to someone who says, “I can't imagine what you are going through.” You're talking to Someone who says, “I've been there. I know. I understand.” What do I do when I feel totally devastated? You do not have to hide your hurt from Him. You do not have to pretend. You do not have to be strong first. You can come devastated, and He receives you with compassion.

*When you feel devastated, turn to Jesus because he invites the brokenhearted.* In **Matthew 11:28**, Jesus says, **“Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** Jesus doesn't say, *“Come to Me when you've pulled yourself together.” “Come to Me when you've figured it out.” “Come to Me when you're strong again.”* He says, *“Come to Me when you're exhausted. Come to Me when you're overwhelmed. Come to Me when you're carrying more than you can bear.”*

*When you feel devastated, turn to Jesus because he speaks truth into the darkness.*

David said, ***“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34.18).*** David sensed the nearness of God. When I am suffering, I need to turn to God and feel His presence.

Often, we suffer alone because devastation lies to us. It whispers: *“You're alone.” “This is the end.” “God doesn't care.” “You'll never recover.” “Nothing good can come from this.”* But Jesus says *“You are not alone.” “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” “My grace is sufficient for you.” “I am with you always.” “I am making all things new.”* When devastation fills your mind with darkness, Jesus fills it with truth. Do not try to fight devastation with willpower. You fight it with the comfort that comes from the mouth of God.

Maybe today you feel like your life is in pieces. Maybe you're holding on by a thread. Maybe you're smiling on the outside but falling apart on the inside. Maybe you're devastated and don't know what to do next. Turn to Jesus. Not because you're strong but because He is. Not because you have answers but because He does. Not because you're okay but because He welcomes the devastated. Bring Him your tears. Bring Him your questions. Bring Him your fears. Bring Him your broken heart. He will meet you there. He will hold you there. And He will lead you through.



Gary

## Who Will Lead Us?

I Timothy 3.1-7

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I Timothy 3.1-7</b></p> <p><i>“The saying is trustworthy: If anyone desires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, soberminded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.”</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Titus 1.5-9</b></p> <p><i>“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”</i></p>
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### The Qualifications Of An Elder Include His...

I) \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) His coworkers, neighbors, and extended family respect him.
- B) His name brings honor, not suspicion, in the community.

II) \_\_\_\_\_ **Relations.**

- A) Faithful to his wife emotionally, mentally, and physically.
- B) His children are submissive and believers.

III) \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) He has a track record of faithfulness over time.
- B) He has been tested by trials and remained steady.
- C) He’s not puffed up by attention or responsibility.

IV) \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) He can explain Scripture clearly and accurately.
- B) He can correct error gently without being combative.

V) \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Additional qualifications.
- B) It may seem overbearing to think that any one man could meet all these qualifications, but, if you will look closely....

**Conclusion:** *Do you need Jesus in your life today?*

# CONNECTION

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## Good morning church family!

Have you ever been told you look like someone famous? Sometimes it's flattering. Sometimes it's... not. And yet, people say, "You remind me of..." or "Has anyone ever told you that you look like...?" This has happened to me several times recently and from complete strangers. And it wasn't someone that I really wanted to be "connected" to.

Most of us, at some point in our lives wish that we look like someone famous. Perhaps it is their striking good looks, their talent, their popularity, or something else like that. I know I did. I was often wearing a jersey (like someone would really take me for that elite athlete), styling my hair like someone I thought was really popular, dressing like a really cool star. I wanted to have people see in me certain attributes that I thought were highly desirable.

But... those same famous people I thought were so cool also had other attributes, human flaws and frailty, that I *didn't* want to have associated with me. Maybe it's an actor known for wild living. A celebrity whose reputation makes you cringe. A public figure you'd rather not be associated with at all. This is where the real-life lesson begins.

A **doppelganger** is someone who looks so much like another person that they could be mistaken for them. *Physically*, it's accidental. *Spiritually*, it should be intentional.



The Bible teaches that we are meant to be spiritual doppelgangers—not of celebrities, athletes, influencers, or public figures—but of **Jesus Christ**. Romans 8:29 says we are called "to be conformed to the image of His Son." 2 Corinthians 3:18 says we are "being transformed into the same image from glory to glory." In Acts 4:13, when people saw Peter and John, they realized something unmistakable: "They had been with Jesus." They didn't say, "They talk like Jesus" or "They quote Jesus." They said, in essence, "**They look like Jesus.**" Not in appearance. In spirit. In conduct. In character.

Imagine if people said that about us. Not, "You remind me of that celebrity..." But, "You remind me of Jesus." Our world is full of "look-alikes." People who resemble whatever culture, media, or influence they spend the most time around. We begin to mirror what we admire. We reflect what we focus on. We start to resemble what we repeatedly behold.

That's why Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." He was saying, "If you want to know what Jesus looks like in everyday life, watch me." That should be the goal of every Christian. When people see our patience, they should see Jesus. When they see our kindness, they should see Jesus. When they hear our words, they should hear Jesus. When they watch how we handle stress, conflict, disappointment, and success, they should see Jesus.

Galatians 2:20 says, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." This week let's all focus on being connected with and looking like Jesus – You'll be blessed!

-- Les Keele

## SHEPHERDS

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\*Shepherd of the month

## MINISTERS

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Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

## MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Steve Taylor

Song Leader - Matthew Sloan

Song - You're Worthy of My Praise

Song - I Will Sing The Wondrous Story

Song - Fairest Lord Jesus

Opening Prayer - Jeff Swan

Scripture - I Timothy 3:1-7

Song - Remind Me, Dear Lord

Lord's Supper - Milt Birmingham

Prayer For Contribution - Milt Birmingham

Song - You Are The Song That I Sing

Song - He Lives

Who Will Lead Us? - Gary Williams

Song - Come Unto Me

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer and Dismissal - Greg Ball

**Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.**

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

### Our Code For Tithley Giving



### Our Code For Attendance



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### Monday, February 16

Exodus 35-36; 2 Corinthians 4

### Tuesday, February 17

Exodus 37-38; 2 Corinthians 5

### Wednesday, February 18

Exodus 39-40; 2 Corinthians 6

### Thursday, February 19

Leviticus 1-3; 2 Corinthians 7

### Friday, February 20

Leviticus 4-5; 2 Corinthians 8

### Saturday, February 21

Leviticus 6-7; 2 Corinthians 9

### LAST WEEK

Bible Class	114	On-Line	5
Worship	224	Wednesday	77
Thai-Lao	35	Contribution	\$10,794.06
On-Line Sunday	37	Budget	\$15,372.28

### TIMES OF ASSEMBLIES

Bible Class	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening	7:00 PM