

JESUS SAVIOUR, JESUS LORD

19 JULY 2026

SUMMARY

This message emphasizes the journey from initial belief in God to developing an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus Christ. Rosemary Downes challenges listeners to move beyond merely believing that God exists to actively surrendering their lives to Him as Lord. Central to the message is the understanding that we are "missionaries of His presence," carrying God's presence into every aspect of daily life. The message stresses that following Christ is costly and requires daily commitment, but through the Holy Spirit's power, we can live as true disciples. Rosemary encourages believers to give God unhindered access to every part of their lives, recognizing that transformation comes not through human strength but through God's presence working within us.

KEY POINTS

- Belief is just the beginning; we need an ongoing encounter with God that deepens over time
- There is a crucial difference between believing God exists and having a personal relationship with Him
- Jesus desires to be both Savior and Lord of our lives, requiring full surrender
- We need to choose God daily, not just be "Sunday morning Christians"
- The Holy Spirit empowers us with gifts to share the Gospel when we lack our own strength
- We are missionaries of God's presence in ordinary, everyday situations
- God wants us to be "hot or cold," not lukewarm in our faith
- Following Christ is costly and narrow, but transforms our lives for the better
- Every day brings new mercies and requires fresh commitment to the Lord
- Our relationship with God should affect how we speak, behave, forgive, and make choices

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- Luke 6:38 - *"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap"*
- The Great Commandment - Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength
- Matthew 16 - Peter's confession: *"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God"*
- The Lord's Prayer - *"Give us this day our daily bread"*
- Revelation 3:15-16 - Being hot or cold, not lukewarm

STORIES:

- The thief on the cross who encountered Jesus and believed in that moment, receiving salvation
- Peter's journey from initial encounter with Jesus to declaring Him as Messiah

- A young person at camp who realized they believed in God but never knew they could have a relationship with Him
- The analogy of children filling drinks to overflowing, representing God filling us with His presence
- Lives of the saints who were unlearned but received knowledge directly from God, astonishing educated priests
- The image of hiding mess in one room when guests come, compared to hiding parts of ourselves from God
- Bruce's current retreat experience where God is speaking to him and preparing new revelations to share

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the message.

OPENING PRAYER

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to God's transforming work. Pray the IMPACTERS Community Prayer .

ICEBREAKER

Share a time when you had an "encounter" with God—a moment when He became more real to you than before.

KEY THEMES FROM THE MESSAGE

Belief is both an event and a journey - We encounter Jesus at a point in time, but we must continue to believe and grow in that belief daily.

Relationship goes beyond belief - Many people believe God exists but don't realize they can have a personal, ongoing relationship with Him.

Jesus wants to be both Savior AND Lord - Accepting Jesus as Savior is the beginning; surrendering to Him as Lord of every area of our lives is the ongoing journey.

We are missionaries of His presence - Everywhere we go, we carry God's presence with us into ordinary, everyday situations.

Daily surrender is essential - Following Jesus is costly and requires choosing Him fresh each day, giving Him unhindered access to every part of our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: Belief and Encounter

1. How would you describe your first "encounter" with Jesus? Was it a specific moment or a gradual realization?
2. The message mentioned that belief can grow from "primary school level" to something much deeper. Where would you say you are in your journey of belief right now?
3. What circumstances or seasons of life have challenged your belief in God's goodness? How did you navigate those times?

Section 2: Relationship vs. Religion

4. The young person at camp said, "I never knew you could have a relationship with this God." Why do you think many people miss this crucial truth?
5. What does an "ever-deepening relationship" with Jesus look like practically in your daily life?
6. Read Luke 6:38. How does God's generous presence in us naturally overflow to others? Can you share an example from your own life?

Section 3: Daily Surrender

7. The message emphasized choosing Jesus daily and giving Him "unhindered access to every part of us." What areas of your life are easiest to surrender? Which are most difficult?
8. What does it mean to you that "we don't need to wait until heaven—His presence can be with us now"?
9. The message mentioned being "hot or cold, not lukewarm" (Revelation 3:15-16). What causes Christians to become lukewarm? How can we guard against this?

Section 4: Being Missionaries of His Presence

10. How does viewing yourself as a "missionary of His presence" change the way you approach everyday activities like shopping, working, or running errands?
11. The message said, "Jesus should affect how we speak, how we behave, how we restrain ourselves." What is one specific area where you sense God wanting to transform you?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few quiet minutes to honestly assess your relationship with Jesus. Consider these questions privately:

- Do I truly believe Jesus is my Savior? Have I accepted His gift of salvation?
- Have I made Jesus the Lord of my life, or are there areas I'm holding back?
- Am I experiencing an ever-deepening relationship with Him, or have I plateaued?
- What "room" in my heart have I not yet given God access to?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to this week:

Morning Surrender: Each morning this week, pray: "Lord, I give you this day. I need your presence. Fill me afresh with your Holy Spirit."

Presence Awareness: Before entering different places (work, grocery store, home), pause and remember: "I am a missionary of His presence. Lord, use me here."

Scripture Meditation: Read and meditate on one of these passages each day:

- Monday: Luke 6:38 (God's generous measure)
- Tuesday: Matthew 7:13-14 (The narrow road)
- Wednesday: Revelation 3:15-16 (Hot, cold, or lukewarm)
- Thursday: John 14:15-17 (The Helper/Advocate)
- Friday: Romans 12:1 (Living sacrifice)
- Saturday: Psalm 63:1-8 (Thirsting for God)

GROUP GUIDED PRAYER

Thanksgiving: Thank God for pursuing us, for being a generous giver, and for the gift of relationship with Him.

Confession: Silently confess areas where you've been lukewarm or have withheld parts of your life from God's lordship.

Petition: Pray for each person in the group by name:

- That their belief would grow stronger
- That their relationship with Jesus would deepen daily
- That they would be bold missionaries of His presence

Intercession: Pray for Bruce as he continues his retreat and travels, that God would use him powerfully.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray the Community Prayer together: *"Lord Jesus, give me and every member of our church community a hunger today to see all people encounter you as their personal Lord and Savior. Almighty God, three persons in one, send your Holy Spirit upon me, upon us, upon the Church, upon the world. Lord God, we are desperate for your presence. Increase our influence and show us your favour and mercy. Amen."*