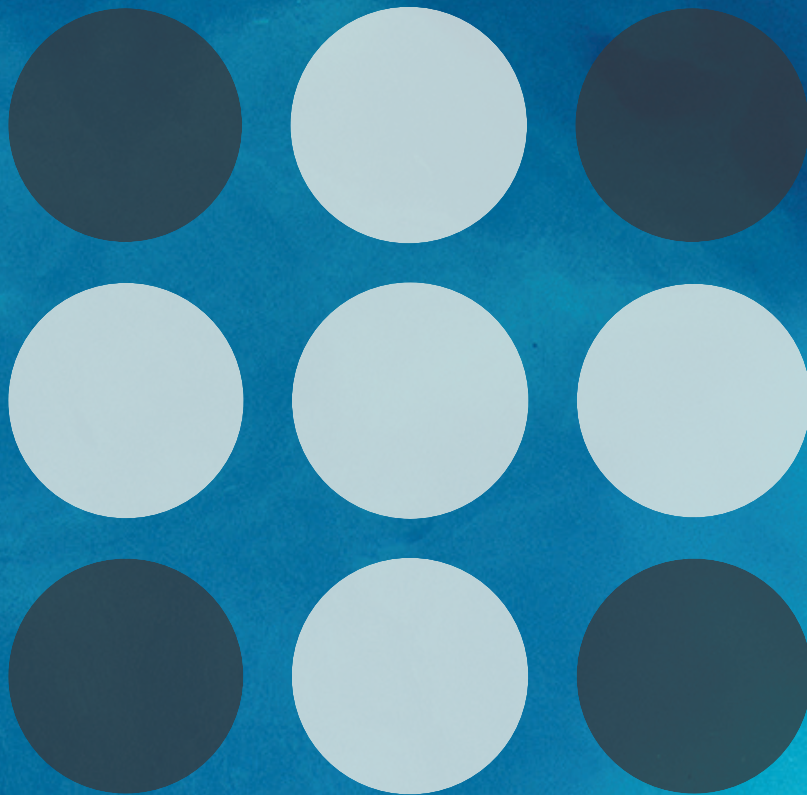


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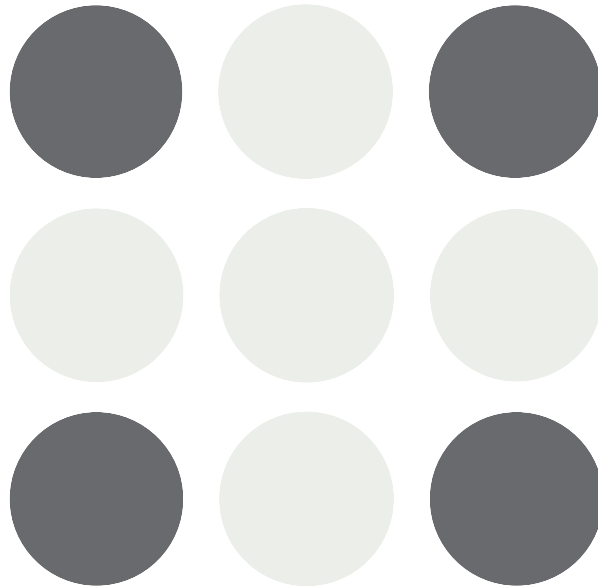
# CONFRONTING JESUS



Encounters with the Hero of the Gospels

Year of  
**HOPE**  
2025





# CONFRONTING JESUS

<b>Jesus the Son</b>	<b>Mark 1:1-11; Mark 2:1-12</b>
<b>Jesus the King</b>	<b>Matthew 16:13-23</b>
<b>Jesus the Healer</b>	<b>Mark 1:40-45; 5:21-43</b>
<b>Jesus the Teacher</b>	<b>Luke 10:25-37; 16:19-31</b>
<b>Jesus the Lover</b>	<b>Mark 2:18-20; John 15:9-17</b>
<b>Jesus the Servant</b>	<b>Mark 9:30-37; 10:35-45</b>
<b>Jesus the Sacrifice</b>	<b>Matthew 26:36-46 Isaiah 57:17, 21-23</b>
<b>Jesus the Lord</b>	<b>Matthew 28:1-20; John 11:17-27</b>

# INTRO .....

Jesus is the most influential person in the world! What does He mean to you?

This series takes seriously all the aspects of Jesus' manhood and divinity. It will teach us who Jesus is in all His splendour, simplicity, complexity and wonder.

There was a time that Jesus asked His disciples - 'Who do people say that I am?' And then He asked them - 'Who do you say I am?'

That is the most important question any of us will answer. Meet the Confronting Jesus, and confront Him fully, to find out His identity. Knowing His identity will help us decipher our own.

Come on the journey to meet Jesus through eye-witness accounts which will illuminate the truth.

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## Some guidelines for Connect Group ...

- Come to the study prepared; preparation will greatly enrich your time together; it is recommended to take notes during the Sunday sermon, and to write down your thoughts as you prepare
- As part of your preparation, why not listen to the sermon again during the week (*most sermons are recorded and available on [Apple Podcasts](#), and also on the [website](#)*)
- As you prepare, pray that God will speak to you through his word
- Be willing to participate in your group. Your sharing will greatly encourage all the other members as you grow together
- Stick to the topic - this allows everyone to participate on level ground and to go deeper into the Bible
- Be sensitive to others and listen attentively; affirm others, especially those who may feel timid or don't often share
- Your leader won't be lecturing, but helping members to think through the questions. Some of the questions don't have a 'right' answer, especially those that apply the Bible to our lives
- Be careful not to dominate, as it could inhibit others from sharing
- Expect God to teach you through the passage and through other members, and always pray that it will be a profitable time together





## INTRO

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***What have been the major factors in your life that have given you your identity?  
(e.g. family background, education, gifts, career opportunities, life circumstances)***

### **Read Mark 1:1-11**

1. Why is John the Baptist important for the Jesus story? How does John help us better understand Jesus' identity?
2. How does the voice from heaven at Jesus' baptism help us understand Jesus' identity?
3. If you are 'in Christ' how does the voice from heaven help you understand your identity?

# Sermon Notes

**Read Mark 2:1-12**

4. How does Mark communicate Jesus' divine identity in this story?

**Read John 20:24-29**

5. How does Jesus react to Thomas' scepticism? What does this passage tell us about Jesus?

**For those who have read Rebecca McLaughlin's book ...**

6. Are there any illustrations which particularly helped you understand Jesus as the Son of God?

7. What difference does it make for you in your daily life if Jesus really is the Son of God and the one true God made flesh?

**Extension Question**

8. Mark points to Jesus' divinity indirectly with the voice from heaven at Jesus' baptism: "You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." v.11  
John in his first chapter is much more direct. He says "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" v.14 and "The Word was God" v.1.  
Do you think of Jesus primarily as the Son of God or simply God? What is the difference?



- Pray for people you know who have a positive view of Jesus but are not fully convinced of his deity
- Pray that they will have a better understanding of the passages we've been examining and exalt Jesus to the highest place

# Sermon Notes



## INTRO

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*When people today talk about being on "the right side of history," what do they usually mean?*

*Do you think history naturally "bends toward justice," or does justice require something more?*

### **Read Matthew 16:13-23**

1. Jesus asks, "Who do you say I am?" Why do you think people had so many different answers about who Jesus was?
2. Peter calls Jesus "The Christ" (Messiah/Anointed One). Why is it important to remember that Christ isn't a surname but a title?



# Sermon Notes

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| <p>3. In verses 17-20, how does Jesus affirm Peter's declaration? What does this tell us about how we come to truly recognise Jesus as King?</p> <p>4. In verses 21-23, how does Jesus challenge Peter's idea of kingship?</p> <p>5. Why do you think Peter rebuked Jesus? What does this show us about how our own expectations of God can sometimes clash with who He really is?</p> | <p>6. McLaughlin says, "Jesus' victory inverted what his fellow countrymen expected." What does it mean for us today that Jesus' kingship comes through the cross rather than military or political power?</p> <p>7. If Jesus is <b>The King</b>, the kind of king who conquers by dying and rising, what difference should that make to how we live under his reign?</p> <p>8. McLaughlin: "Perhaps you can think of a time when you've been willing to give up everything for what you wanted most." Jesus says in v. 26: "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" What might it look like for us to take Jesus' warning and invitation seriously today?</p> |
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- Jesus, you are not just a king but The King. Your crown was thorns, your throne a cross, your victory was resurrection. Help us to follow the way of the cross and find that living and loving like you leads to resurrection joy with you.

# Sermon Notes



## INTRO

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*What is your experience of prayer and physical healing? Be open and sensitive to stories of God healing and not healing.*

1. Have you or someone close to you ever had a health crisis that really made you rethink what you believe? If so, explain.

### **Read Mark 1:40-45**

2. What is striking about Jesus' reaction to this man with leprosy?
3. What is striking about the man's reaction to Jesus?

# Sermon Notes

**Read Mark 5:21-43**

3. What impression do we get of the sick woman in verses 25,26?
4. Why do you think Jesus makes the sick woman reveal herself?
5. What impression do we get of Jairus in vv. 22 & 23?
6. How are the situations for the sick woman and Jairus similar and different?

7. Jesus completed many healings in his ministry. Why do you think Mark might have chosen these two stories for his gospel? What are the particular lessons for us in these stories?
8. What does this story of healing teach us about faith?

***For those who have read Rebecca McLaughlin's book ...***

9. What is your response to Rebecca's approach to God healing or not healing when we pray?



- Pray for anyone in your group who would like prayer for healing
- Make sure to follow up next week and subsequent weeks to discern how God is answering your prayer



# Sermon Notes



## INTRO

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***Can you think of a teacher (school, uni, coach, mentor, pastor) who said something that has stuck with you for years?  
What made it so memorable or challenging?***

### ***Read Luke 10:25-37***

1. The lawyer asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" and "Who is my neighbour?" Why do you think he asked the second question? What might he have been hoping for?
2. What's shocking about Jesus making a Samaritan the hero of the story?

# Sermon Notes

3. McLaughlin comments: "Loving your neighbour means loving the person least like you, the one raised to hate your guts." Who might that be for you today?

**Read Luke 16:19-31**

4. What strikes you most about the contrast between the rich man and Lazarus in this life and the next?
5. What do we learn here about God's concern for the poor and marginalised? How does this sharpen the teaching of the Good Samaritan?
6. How do these two parables confront both our understanding of compassion for others and our attitude toward wealth, comfort, and eternity?
7. McLaughlin says Jesus' teaching is radically inclusive and radically exclusive at the same time: inclusive of outsiders etc; exclusive in his warning that sin and rejection of him lead to hell. Why do you think both sides of Jesus' teaching are hard for people today to accept? Which side do you find harder?



- Thank you, Jesus, that your teaching is timeless and powerful. Help us to receive your challenges and follow you in the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Sermon Notes



## INTRO

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*How would you define love? What are the true marks of friendship?*

### **Read John 15:9-17**

1. In what ways can we practically 'remain' or 'abide' (v9-10) in Christ's love? Think of both the text and your personal experience.
2. Why does Jesus connect abiding in His love with His joy being in us? How is Christian joy different from worldly happiness?



# Sermon Notes

3. According to Jesus, what is the greatest demonstration of love? How does the cross fulfil this? (v.13)

4. McLaughlin comments "This intense, self-sacrificing love, this love than which no other love is greater, is a love that Jesus has for all his followers and that he calls his followers to have for one another." Does this differ from the world's view of love? Do you think this is the greatest form of love?

5. What is significant about Jesus calling His disciples "friends" rather than "servants" (v 15)? How should this shape the way we relate to Him?

6. Where do you find it hardest to love others as He has loved you, and what would it look like to love others like this?

### ***Extension Question***

***Read Isaiah 54:5-8, Jeremiah 3:20 and Mark 2:18-20***

7. How does God portray himself in the Old Testament passages? How does this help us understand the role Jesus is taking on?



- Thank Jesus for his love and for what he has done for us through the cross.
- Pray for any areas of loving others that you may struggle with

# Sermon Notes



## INTRO

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*Can you think of an act of humility you have seen in real life, or perhaps in a book or movie?*

1. How does Jesus' presentation of himself as a servant (slave), challenge the idea that unlimited freedom is the path to human happiness?

### ***Read Exodus 20:1-3***

2. God frees his people from slavery. But they are not free agents. Why are they set free?

### ***Read Mark 9:30-37***

3. According to Jesus what is the true measure of greatness?  
How does this contrast with the disciples understanding?

# Sermon Notes

4. Why is the illustration of a little child so appropriate?

7. In v.45 Jesus presents his death as a great exchange: he gives his life as the ransom for many. How does this help us to follow Jesus example of servanthood?

**Read Mark 10:35-45**

5. Why is James and John's request so inappropriate?

8. When Jesus died on the cross he was identifying with slaves and the oppressed. How does this understanding help us in our discipleship today?

6. In v.41 the other 10 disciples are indignant. What does this tell you about their attitude?



- Ask God to show you how your ministry for him can look more like the way Jesus served
- Ask god to show you any new ministry he might be calling you to



# Sermon Notes



## INTRO

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*Can you think of a story/movie where someone sacrificed themselves for another? Why do such stories move us so deeply?*

### **Read Matthew 26:36-46**

1. Why do you think Jesus, who knew no sin, agonised so deeply over this cup?
2. How does Jesus' drinking of the cup show that God's wrath and God's love are not opposed, but united in him?
3. In what ways is Jesus' substitution unique compared to every other story of sacrifice we know?

# Sermon Notes

4. McLaughlin shows the connection of Jesus' sacrifice to the Passover lamb. How does the blood on the Israelites' doorposts foreshadow what Jesus is about to do?  
See Exodus 12:13.

5. Why do you think God required the Israelites to place visible blood on their doors, even though he already knew who was inside?  
What does that teach us about trusting God's promises?

6. What does Jesus' submission "Not my will, but yours" teach us about obedience, and trust in God, especially when we face suffering?

7. If Jesus is our substitute what difference should that make in how we live, worship, and love others?  
See Gal 2:20; Rom 12:1

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- Thank God for sending his Son, the spotless Lamb, who bore the cup of wrath in our place.
- Ask the Spirit to teach us to die to sin and live for righteousness, to worship wholeheartedly, and to love others with the same sacrificial love we have received in Jesus.

# Sermon Notes



## INTRO

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*Are there things in your past that you would go back and change if you could? What difference do you think those changes would make?*

1. How would you explain the concept that Jesus is 'Lord' in simple language for a friend?

### ***Read Philippians 3:7-14***

2. v.8 In what ways have you found the worth of knowing Christ as Lord surpassing everything else in your life?
3. v.14 What difference does Jesus' resurrection make for us? What is the prize?



# Sermon Notes

**Read Matthew 28:1-20**

4. How does the resurrection of Jesus affirm your faith in His divinity?
5. How does the resurrection event affect your understanding of life, death, and eternity?
6. How does the resurrection story impact your view of the nature of God?
7. What can you infer about the authority of Jesus from His words in the Great Commission?

**Read John 11:17-27**

8. How does Lazarus' resurrection underscore Jesus' power and authority?
9. How does Jesus' statement, "I am the resurrection and the life," impact your understanding of His role and mission?
10. To conclude, share around the group how your understanding of Jesus has grown through these 8 weeks



- Before you pray, sit in silence and contemplate Jesus' identity. Let the enormity of it soak in.
- Give thanks for who Jesus is, what He has done, and for what it means in your lives.

# Sermon Notes



*Living to Love and  
Proclaim Jesus*

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Year of  
**HOPE**  
2025

©2025 Anglican Church Noosa  
Rev'ds Chris Johnson, Lynda Johnson  
Brad Henley and Dave Smith