



**Easter**

He Is Risen!



The background is a complex, abstract composition of various textures and colors. It features a mix of dark, muted tones like charcoal, grey, and olive green, interspersed with lighter, more vibrant areas of off-white, pale pink, and light blue. The overall effect is that of a heavily layered and splattered surface, possibly a canvas or a piece of aged paper, with visible brushstrokes and irregular, organic shapes. The lighting is somewhat uneven, creating a sense of depth and highlighting the different layers of the composition.

Good  
Friday





## *Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross*

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. **Mark 15:21-27**





## *Jesus Is Mocked as King*

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. **Mark 15:28-32**



*Jesus Died, Love's Redeeming Work is Done.*

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" **Mark 15:33-39**



I grew up in a home where the title of Christian was used but not practiced. We went to church occasionally for holidays, but not regularly enough to have any impact. So I spent my childhood through high school years with thoughts of maybe there is a god, but not caring if there was. For this reason I lived consumed by what the world said was important. My identity was wrapped up in what others thought of me; the things I said, how I looked, what I wore, the grades I got; and no matter how much I got or how good I did, it never satisfied. I put on a mask of what I thought other people wanted to see.

Michael Morgan Jr.





But God begun His work changing my heart once I got to college. Within a couple days of moving in, my RA invited me to come to CRU with him...without actually telling me what it was. But I was struck by how different everyone was, like nothing I'd ever seen from my peers growing up. I felt drawn to coming back and joining a Bible study and going to church. It was there that I first truly heard the Gospel and what it meant to have a personal relationship with Christ. And after a semester of God working in my heart, I prayed and trusted Christ as Lord and Savior of my life. That night I truly felt what it was like to be loved by God through the Holy Spirit and my life was changed for eternity. And in the Gospel, God gave me freedom from being defined by what I did or what others thought of me.

Michael Morgan Jr.









I was trapped in my brokenness, seeking to be satisfied by what the world has to offer. I believed complete satisfaction would be met each weekend I entered the bars, drinking to my heart's content. Yet, I would wake up each Sunday with immense feelings of shame for what took place the night before. The burden was heavy and I didn't know how this weight could be lifted. My roommate began going to church while she was home for the summer and when coming back to school, she was eager to find a church in Eau Claire. While her eagerness definitely caused me to roll my eyes, I was also intrigued, and interested to learn more.

Kaelyn Larson





We began going to church each Sunday, and while I still was unsure, God used the body of Christ to draw me in. I had never experienced a community like this before - people genuinely cared about me and how I was doing - the relationship was about more than just our weekend plans. Throughout that fall and winter, I began to better understand that the brokenness and shame I felt could be healed in Jesus. Easter is also a special time for me, as it was 11 years ago on Easter Sunday I heard the gospel clearly for the first time. It was then I truly understood how great Jesus's love is for me and how he made that abundantly clear through coming to earth as a man, stepping in my place by taking on the death I deserve, and then rising by glorious power and reconciling us back to God, our Father.

Kaelyn Larson







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*Easter*

*He Is Risen!*



## *Jesus heals and Jesus resurrects*

While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak.

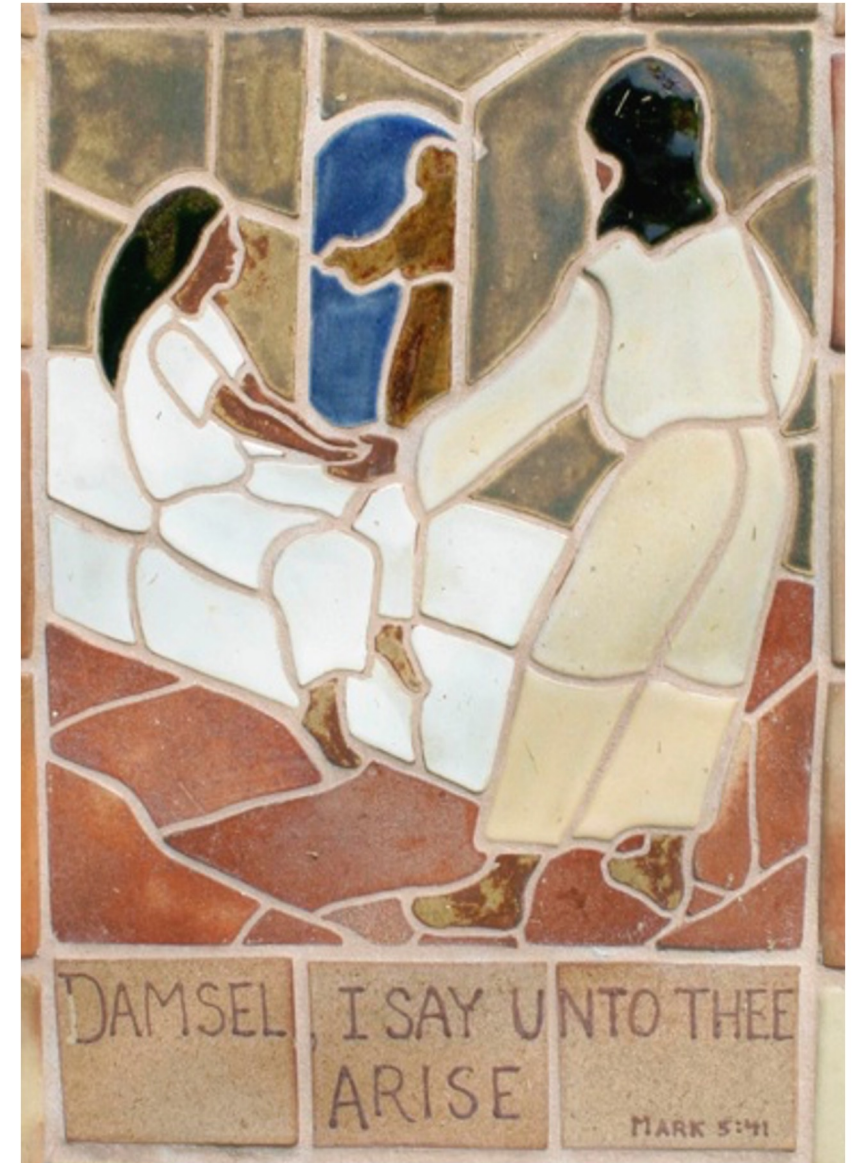
She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment. When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region.

**Matthew 9:18-26**

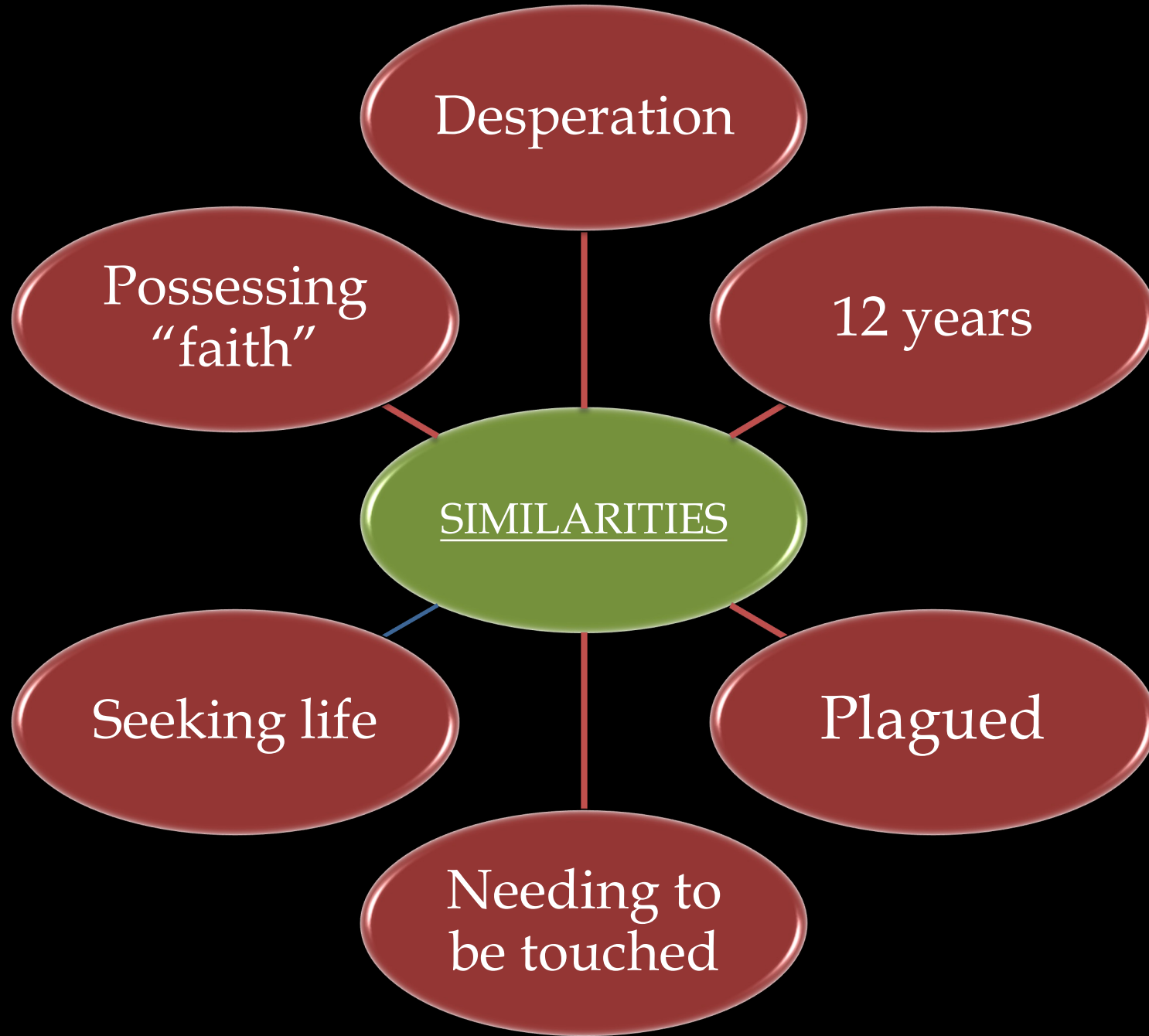


# Comparison of the Two Stories

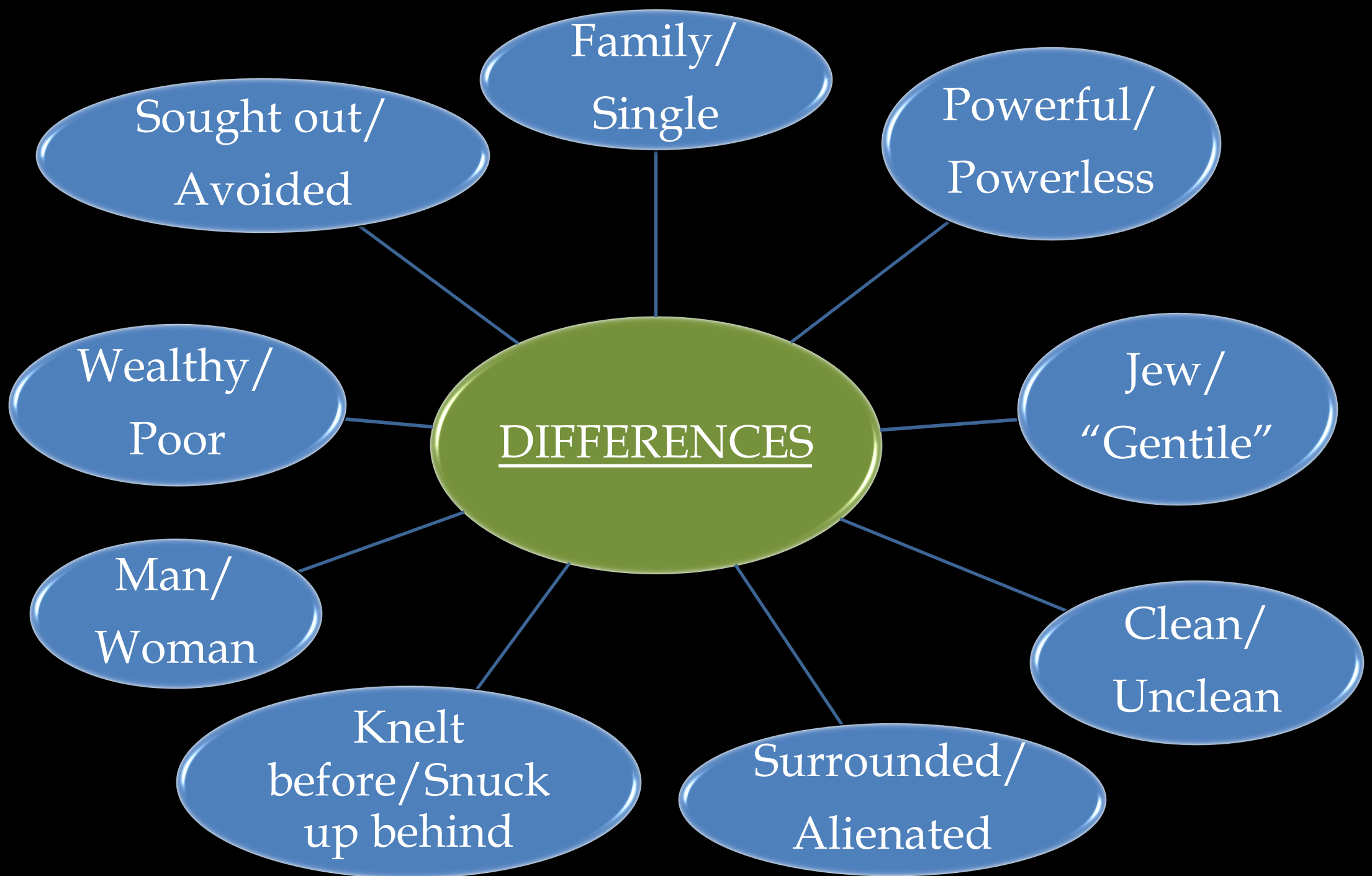




# Comparison of the Two Stories



# Comparison of the Two Stories





# Good News this Easter Sunday

- Jesus makes clean with his touch



# Good News this Easter Sunday

- Jesus makes clean with his touch
- Jesus turned and saw her



# Good News this Easter Sunday

- Jesus makes clean with his touch
- Jesus turned and saw her
- She was healed/saved from her plague

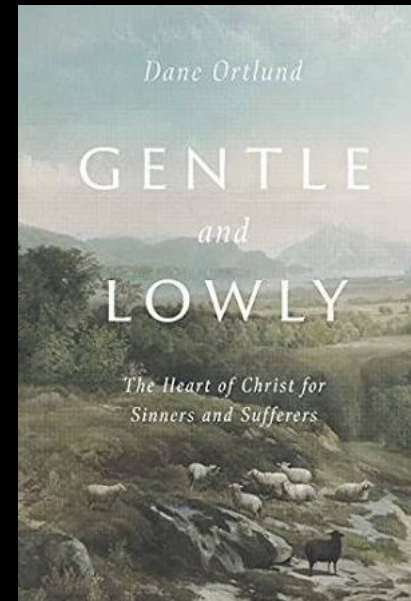


# Good News this Easter Sunday

- Jesus makes clean with his touch
- Jesus turned and saw her
- She was healed/saved from her plague
- Jesus instantly and easily healed/saved/  
raised the dead

Christ was sent not to mend wounded people, or wake sleepy people, or advise confused people, or inspire bored people, or spur on lazy people, or educate ignorant people, but to raise dead people.

Dane Ortlund, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*, 175.





# Good News this Easter Sunday

- Jesus makes clean with his touch
- Jesus turned and saw her
- She was healed/saved from her plague
- Jesus instantly and easily healed/saved/  
raised the dead
- Jesus is the locus



## John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"



# Good News this Easter Sunday

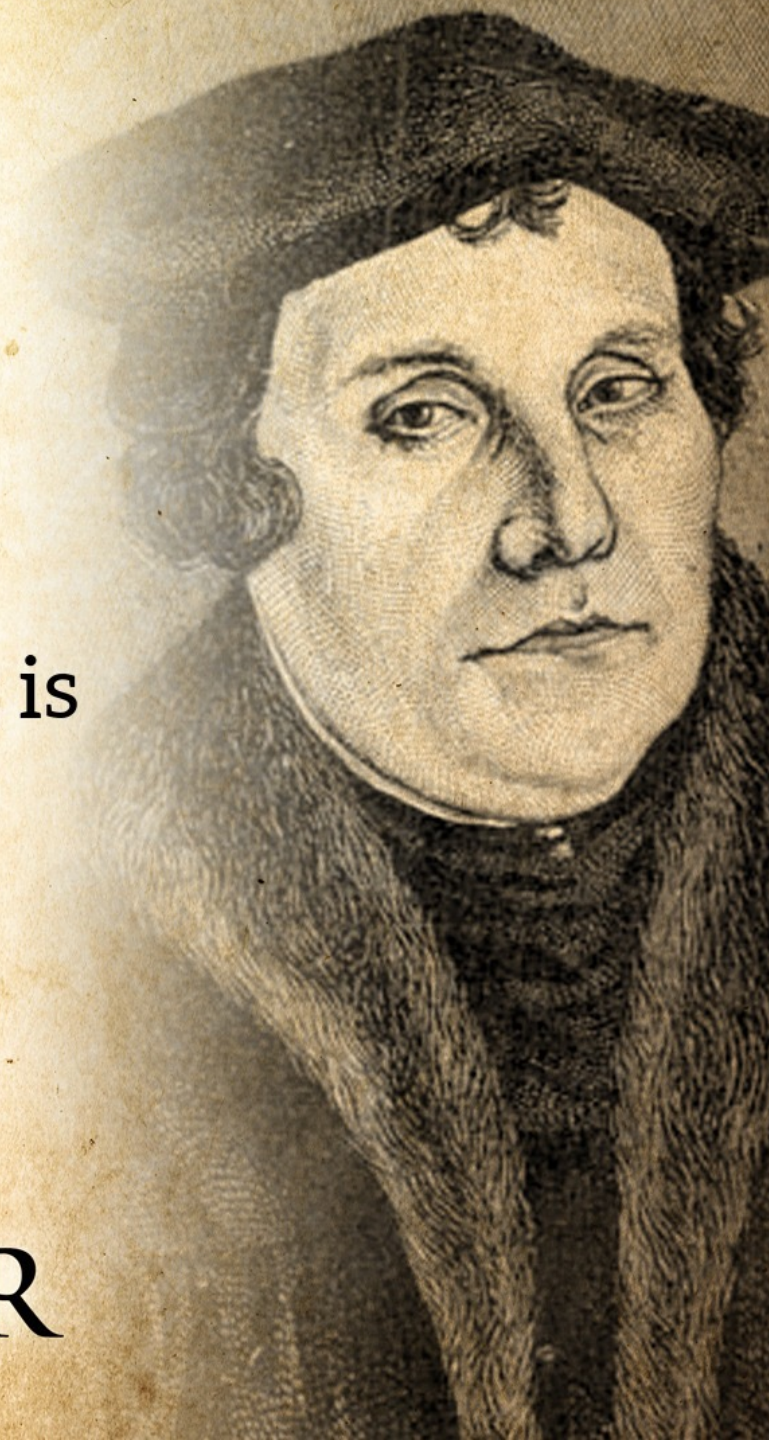
- Jesus makes clean with his touch
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- Jesus is the locus
- Jesus is the source



The law says “Do this” and it is never done.

Grace says “Believe in this” and everything is already done.

**MARTIN LUTHER**





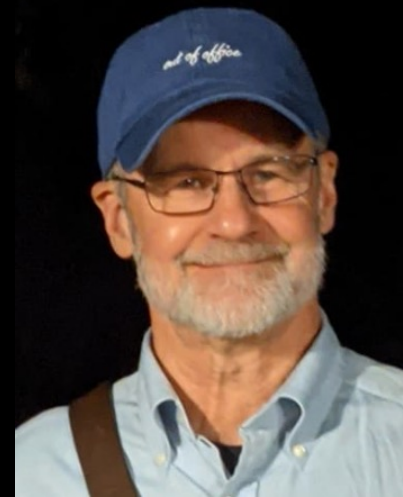
# Good News this Easter Sunday

- Jesus makes clean with his touch
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- She was healed/saved from her plague
- Jesus instantly and easily healed/saved/raised the dead
- Jesus is the locus
- Jesus is the source
- Who gets the last laugh?



I'm 67 years old at this point in the story of God's grace toward me. When I was younger, growing up in a church which faithfully taught the good news of Christ, I was open and even responsive to the gospel. At age 20 though, after a time of drifting away from church life and God's lure of grace, my mother encouraged me to read C. S. Lewis' Mere Christianity. The Spirit pulled at my heart enough that I read Lewis, and was surprised to find myself with a new and fuller understanding of God's grace shown in Christ. New understanding became a compelling need to give myself fully to God as my only reasonable response. His gift of saving faith became my reality.

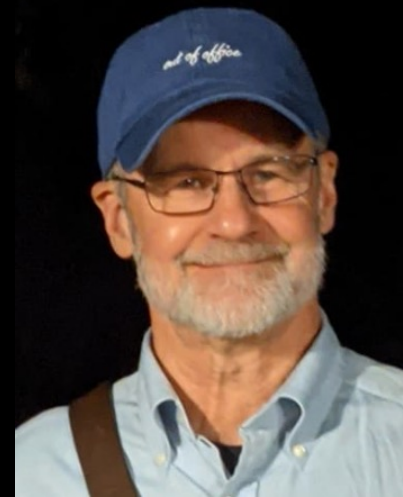
Chuck Mick





Looking back I can see that God took the initiative – that his Holy Spirit turned on the lights in the room where I had always been, but had not been seeing clearly. In that light I saw more fully the condition of my sinful heart. I saw that I was in a foolish war with my creator who had let me go my own way. I came to see that he'd let me go, in patient preparation for a heartfelt response to his grace in Jesus. I saw and believed that he would draw me near and forgive and forget my sin, having already punished it – amazingly! – in his own perfect son. And as if that weren't enough, I saw that he will consider me righteous, united by faith with Jesus' perfect righteousness.

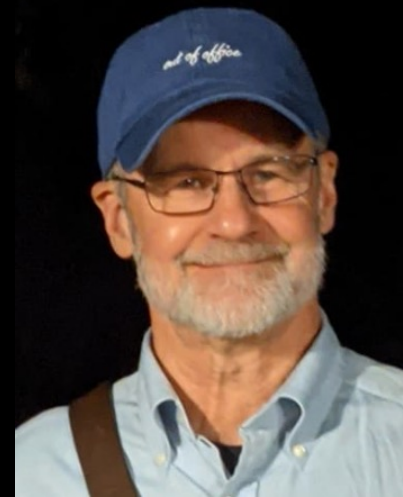
Chuck Mick





He has now patiently spent years drawing me nearer, to know him and enjoy his wonderful heart. There are days when I just marvel at his great grace to me, and to my brothers and sisters in Christ! Seeing and responding to God's grace in Jesus is something that takes place in a moment, as he directs and invites, but somehow also takes a lifetime. And – it seems a whole lifetime really only accumulates to a good appetizer for a great timeless feast at his table!

Chuck Mick







**“He has risen!”**



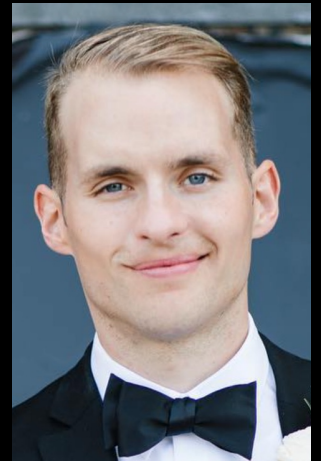
## Romans 6:3–8

<sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—<sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.



Some of my core childhood memories stem from my family's regular Sunday and Wednesday attendance at church. I believed going to church to be a societal norm, the same way going to school or going grocery shopping was what everybody in our small, rural town did. After high school, I moved to Minneapolis for the University of Minnesota only to have a really rough first couple of years floundering with friendships and struggling to feel like I was where I should be. During a Sophomore year semester abroad in Florence, Italy, I was in an Art History course where we were weekly studying biblically-based artwork in person. Through that class, Jesus sparked a curiosity to know more. I downloaded a bible app on my iPad and started reading at random. The Lord chased me down in my lonely homestay room in Florence to start the journey of walking with Him.

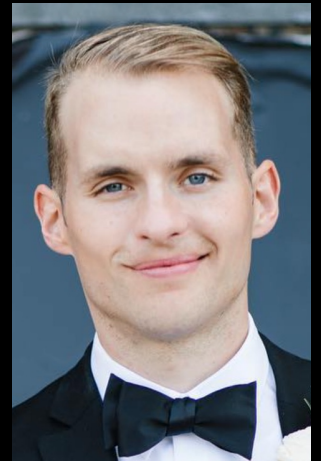
Sam Leidholt





He reminds me regularly of His vast artwork on display through His gifts of my beautiful bride, our precious (and chaotic) children, and the deep friendships He's surrounded me with. The constants of His grace, mercy, and love have become the cornerstone of God taking that random, lonely bible opening and orchestrating the highs and lows of my story in pursuit of knowing Him more.

Sam Leidholt





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