

# What is Jesus doing today

## Introduction

Good morning Church! It is amazing to think that another Easter weekend has come and gone.

But today, I want to tell you that the story of Jesus didn't end at Easter! Jesus hasn't been sitting around idle for 2,000 years. Jesus has been hard at work!

## What is Jesus doing today?

If you have your bibles, let me show you. I'm going to be skipping between some New Testament Scriptures and Isaiah 61.

But let's begin here;

**Ephesians 1:5** says, *“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure” (NLT).*

God's plan, has always been, to adopt us into his own family, through Jesus Christ.

What is Jesus doing today?

## Jesus is building a family (Eph 1:5)

A family. God decided this in advance. Long before you and I were born. Long before your dependents walked the earth, long before ancient history, long before the creation of this world. In fact, if he didn't want a family, this world wouldn't even exist!

(Share example of my family)

Friends, this is what Jesus is doing. He is building God's family! And this gives God great pleasure. God wants lots and lots of children in his family, it's a big family, and the Father's love is unconditional, continuous, and extravagant.

Today we shift from our series in Isaiah, to a new series called “Build to last.” My prayer, is that this will strengthen our families. We know not everyone is in the stereotypical family situation. Some of you are singles, some of you have blended families, some of you are single parents, some of you are grandparents. We are going to be looking at all kinds of family dynamics. Marriage, parenting, relationships, it's going to be great!

And my prayer is that in your families and relationships, you will build to last. Just like Jesus did. How is he still doing this today?

## Jesus is keeping God's family safe and secure (Jn 10:27-30)

Evil forces in the world will attempt to harm God's children, believing that that will also hurt God. But just like any other loving father, God doesn't want to lose any of his children, and Jesus is keeping God's family safe and secure.

As Christians, over time, it can be easy to grow cold in your love and appreciation of God in your life, and the enemy loves nothing better than to tempt God's children into sin.

You probably know many people who have backslidden, it seems like at one point they put their faith in Jesus, but now are not walking with the Lord.

This is my belief. If someone is genuinely saved by Jesus, and brought into God's family, Jesus is going to keep them safe. Just like we can't save ourselves from sin, we can't keep ourselves saved either.

Jesus told us in **John 10:27-30**:

***27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me,***

***29 for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. 30 The Father and I are one." (NLT)***

Here is the truth. Jesus has been securing our salvation for 2,000 years. I can lose my family, my health, and even my sanity, but I can't lose my salvation. Some people might appear to be Christians, and then fall away, but perhaps they were never truly saved to begin with, but the truly redeemed of the Lord, have been given eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch or steal them away from Jesus.

Jesus is building family, and Jesus is keeping his family safe.

Let's spend some time looking at **Isaiah 61**: verse 1-3; Isaiah the prophet;

***The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. (NIV)***

As we have come to the end of our journey in Isaiah, we have learnt about this difficult time in history for God's people, we saw how God raised up Isaiah as a prophet to them, to challenge them, and to encourage them.

God loved his people, and despite their rebellion, he had a plan to bring a suffering servant, who would change everything. We know that to be Jesus.

Israel was in the worst of positions – they faced poverty because their wealth and work had been taken away by the nations that defeated them. They were broken hearted, because they were separated from family, and all they had worked for and built up had been ruined. They were captives in foreign lands, and when they were released, they were still under foreign rule. They were prisoners of foreign rulers. They mourned, for what they had lost, and they were grieving deeply for the life they once had.

I think many of us can relate to one or more of these situations. Some of us are facing poverty, some of us are broken hearted. Some of you feel captive to certain things in your life. Some are grieving deeply because of great loss in your life.

Here is what I want you to know today my friend. Jesus is still working in our world today. What is he doing? In Luke chapter 4, when Jesus began his early ministry, he stood up in the synagogue, and he became the fulfilment of scripture, and showed us exactly what he came to do, and is still doing to this day;

Let me read from **Luke 4:14**;

**Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. <sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.**

**He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: <sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

**<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”**

What Jesus started doing in that synagogue, he continues to do to this day. Jesus is saying, “Today, in this place, this valley, the Spirit of the Lord is on me. I’m the saviour. I’m the anointed one. All of this is fulfilled in me. I’m your riches. I’m your freedom. I’m your sight. I’m your liberation. It’s all about Jesus.

Jesus is building a family, Jesus is protecting his family...

**Jesus is proclaiming good news to the poor (Is 61:1)**

Jesus said; ***“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.”***

This passage highlights Jesus’ heart to the poor, and it is one of the reasons for our heart as a church for the poor.

But why? Well, Jesus himself was poor, contrary to all the ridiculous false teaching that has been made famous around the world that we are all meant to be healthy, wealthy, and prosperous.

Here is what the bible teaches us. Jesus was poor. Jesus' mother and father were poor, his family and friends were poor, his hometown was poor.

So when Jesus says "I am anointed to proclaim good news to the poor" he knows what it is like to be poor, and he knows that most of the world is poor, and he understands the distinct disadvantage of being poor.

In fact, many religions around the world know this, and so they've set it up so that the rich are treated in a distinctly different way than the poor.

(Examples?)

This is why I love Jesus so much! Christianity is not perfect. Because people are not perfect. But Jesus is perfect. And what Jesus says, is that he comes to preach to the poor. He offers the same grace, salvation, love of God, forgiveness of sins, and seat in heaven, for rich and poor. And it doesn't mean here that Jesus is against the rich. Jesus even loved the tax collectors!

Friends, here is what I want you to see. Christianity is not built on an economic model where you get what you pay for.

Christianity is built on this, that if Jesus is your God, he gives grace fully, completely, equally, to all. And in a world, where today, you are where you live, and what you drive, and what you make and wear.

Next point;

### **Jesus is setting captives free (Is 61:1)**

In this incredible passage in Isaiah, Jesus also reveals another thing that he is doing today. He speaks of those who are captives. The language here is something like a prisoner of war. For God's people in Isaiah, it was exactly that. Prophetically, Jesus was meaning so much more.

Examples of slavery in our world today?

Jesus says that he has come to what? To proclaim liberty to the captives! Jesus wants captives released. Jesus wants slaves set free. Jesus wants vulnerable children, and abused and neglected women to see justice.

I believe Jesus is still working today, and if we belong to Jesus, and he's given us the Holy Spirit, then we want to be all about his business, because we love him and we appreciate him, and we are so grateful for his work in our life to set us as captives free.

And I know some of us are still fighting through our own captivity, but because of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, captives can be set free!

Here is another thing Jesus is doing;

### **Jesus is giving sight to the blind (Lk 4:18)**

Our Jesus, actually did bring sight to the blind, literally, can you imagine that? Jesus actually gave sight to the blind.

John the Baptist, at one point in his life doubted, and wondered, “is Jesus really the Christ?” John’s followers came to Jesus and asked him, “Are you the one?” and he said; “Tell John this, the blind are now seeing.”

It’s a fulfillment of prophecy. And you know what friends, Jesus is still giving sight to the blind. We can know that God has come, because blind eyes were open.

Quick recap;

Jesus is building a family  
Jesus is keeping his family safe  
Jesus is proclaiming good news to the poor  
Jesus is setting captives free  
Jesus is giving sight to the blind

Just one or two more! What else is Jesus doing today?

### **Jesus is praying for every need we have (Heb 7:24-25)**

The Bible is clear on this, Jesus is God, but, he is also praying to God the Father on our behalf. In fact, he did that even just before he died on the cross in John 17.

But the verse I want to point out is **Hebrews 7:24-25**; it says;

***“Because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf” (NLT).***

Friends, Jesus is interceding for you, he is praying for you. He knows what’s on your heart. He knows the concerns that weigh you down.

He is praying for every need we have. I’m sure he is praying for you right now, as you hear this message. What do you think he is interceding for you about?

Here’s something else he is doing...

### **Jesus is preparing a home for us in heaven (1 Cor 2:9)**

For the last 2,000 years, Jesus has been hard at work preparing a home for us. The bible tells us, that God brought the entire universe into existence just by speaking. So, can you imagine what he’s done in 2,000 years of preparing heaven for you?

It's no wonder that **1 Corinthians 2:9** says,

***“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him” (NLT).***

In my life, have been truly blessed to travel around our beautiful country, to visit countries around us on the continent of Africa. I've traveled to Europe - England, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland. I've driven across part of the United States.

A few years ago before we had kids, Shelley and I drove all the way from Nashville right up to New York City, and I've seen some incredibly beautiful sights—big cities, countrysides, sunsets and sunrises, waterfalls, mountains, forests, beaches and oceans, but do you know what friends? But this world is broken. Yet even in its brokenness, it's beautiful. If this broken world, is that beautiful, can you imagine what a perfect place like heaven will be like?

What is Jesus doing? He is preparing a home. And *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him!”*

My final point today is this, yes Jesus is still working today, but he also wants to work through you. God wants to use you to invite people to that amazing place he is preparing through a relationship with Jesus. What an incredible opportunity!

Jesus is building a family  
Jesus is keeping his family safe  
Jesus is proclaiming good news to the poor  
Jesus is setting captives free  
Jesus is giving sight to the blind  
Jesus is preparing a home for us in heaven  
And finally;

**Jesus is waiting for us to finish our assignment.**

As a pastor, I've witnessed many people's last moments. I've learned that last words are important. Jesus' last words, known as the Great Commission, are instructions for all believers, not just pastors and missionaries.

Jesus said,

***“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20 NLT).***

If there was anything more important to Jesus than the Great Commission, he would have said it in those last words. Instead, Jesus gives his followers a huge assignment:

*Tell everybody how much I love them before I return.*

King of Kings, That's still our mission today, 2,000 years later.

In **Revelation 7:9-10**, we're given a picture of what heaven will look like when we've completed Jesus' assignment:

***“After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb.***

***They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, ‘Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!’” (NLT).***

What is the big vision? That's it right there. I pray you would keep that picture in your mind. Every person who hears your voice, needs to know that Jesus alone can save them.

Let's pray together, that we will finish our assignment, so that one day, we can all stand before the throne of Jesus, and praise him for all eternity.

**Come Holy Spirit.**

**Credit - Rick Warren**

[https://pastors.com/five-things-jesus-is-accomplishing-today/?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=5%EF%B8%8F+Things+Jesus+Is+Accomplishing+Today&utm\\_campaign=MT+03+29+2023+Five+Things+Jesus+Is+Accomplishing+Today+%2B+CLASS](https://pastors.com/five-things-jesus-is-accomplishing-today/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=5%EF%B8%8F+Things+Jesus+Is+Accomplishing+Today&utm_campaign=MT+03+29+2023+Five+Things+Jesus+Is+Accomplishing+Today+%2B+CLASS)

**Credit - Mark Driscoll**

<https://realfaith.com/sermons/jesus-and-the-holy-spirit/>

**Small Group Questions:**