

## **East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:**

Transformed: Jesus is a Revolutionary

Speaker: Pastor Keith Jenkins

Date: June 9, 2024

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### **Introduction:**

In this fourth installment of the "Transformed" series, Pastor Keith Jenkins explores the revolutionary nature of Jesus and the impact of His life, death, and resurrection on the spiritual realm and our lives. Drawing from the writings of Dallas Willard and various scripture passages, Pastor Keith emphasizes the comprehensive transformation that Jesus brings, not just through external systems, but through a deep, internal revolution of the heart.

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### **Key Points and Discussion Questions:**

#### **1. Jesus' revolution is a revolution of the human heart:**

Pastor Keith highlights that Jesus' revolution is not primarily about changing social institutions or laws, but about transforming people from the inside out through a personal relationship with God.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- Why is it essential to understand that Jesus' revolution begins with a transformation of the heart?
- How have you experienced the transformative power of a personal relationship with Jesus in your own life?

**Supporting Verses:**

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 - "If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God."

**Context and Reflection:**

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, acknowledging the spiritual blindness that prevents unbelievers from understanding the Gospel.
- Theological Significance: This passage highlights the spiritual nature of Jesus' revolution, emphasizing the need for a supernatural work in the hearts and minds of individuals.
- Application: We must recognize that true transformation comes not through external reforms alone, but through a deep, internal work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**2. Jesus' death and resurrection brought a spiritual overthrow:**

Pastor Keith explains that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His subsequent resurrection resulted in a spiritual confrontation that dethroned the god of this world and brought salvation and new life to many.

**Discussion Questions:**

- How does understanding the spiritual significance of Jesus' death and resurrection impact your view of the Christian life?
- In what ways have you experienced freedom and new life as a result of Jesus' victory over sin and death?

**Supporting Verses:**

Colossians 2:13-15 - "You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In

this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross."

### **Context and Reflection:**

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul wrote to the Colossian church, emphasizing the completeness of Christ's victory over sin and the spiritual forces of evil.
- Theological Significance: This passage highlights the cosmic significance of Jesus' death and resurrection, demonstrating His triumph over the powers of darkness and the cancellation of the debt of sin.
- Application: We can live in the confidence and freedom that comes from knowing that Jesus has definitively defeated the spiritual forces arrayed against us and has secured our salvation.

### **3. Following Jesus requires a wholehearted commitment:**

Pastor Keith stresses that experiencing the full benefits of life in God's kingdom necessitates a complete dedication to following Jesus and His ways, leaving no room for retreat or compromise.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What does it mean to "burn your boats" in your commitment to Jesus? What might this look like in your life?
- How can we cultivate a wholehearted devotion to Jesus, even when faced with challenges or the temptation to turn back?

### **Supporting Verses:**

Matthew 13:44-46 - "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

### **Context and Reflection:**

- **Historical/Cultural Context:** Jesus often used parables to teach profound truths about the nature of God's kingdom and the cost of discipleship.
  - **Theological Significance:** These parables underscore the surpassing worth of God's kingdom and the wholehearted commitment required to obtain it.
  - **Application:** We must be willing to surrender everything to follow Jesus, recognizing that He is the ultimate treasure and that life in His kingdom is worth any sacrifice.
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### **Conclusion:**

Pastor Keith's message on the revolutionary nature of Jesus challenges us to embrace the comprehensive transformation that Christ brings to our lives. By recognizing that Jesus' revolution begins in the heart, understanding the spiritual significance of His death and resurrection, and committing wholeheartedly to following Him, we can experience the full benefits of life in God's kingdom. As we surrender to the Holy Spirit's transforming work and align our lives with Jesus' ways, we become participants in His ongoing revolution of love, grace, and redemption.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. In what areas of your life do you sense Jesus calling you to a deeper, more wholehearted commitment to Him?
  2. How can you cultivate a greater awareness of the spiritual realities at work in your life and in the world around you?
  3. What practical steps can you take this week to align your heart, mind, and actions more fully with Jesus' revolutionary ways?
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### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to bring a revolution of the heart and to secure our salvation through His death and resurrection. Open our eyes to the spiritual realities at work in our lives and in the world around us. Give us the courage and the willingness to surrender everything to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Help us to embrace the transforming work of Your Holy Spirit, so that our lives may reflect the revolutionary love, grace, and truth of Christ. May we be faithful participants in Your ongoing work of redemption and transformation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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### **References:**

#### **Primary Sources:**

Sermon Notes for "Transformed: Jesus is a Revolutionary," East Hill Church, 06/09/2024. Prepared by Pastor Keith Jenkins.

The Holy Bible, New Living Translation (NLT). Tyndale House Publishers, 2015.

#### **Secondary Sources:**

Willard, Dallas. "Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ." NavPress, 2012.

#### **Collaborative Contributions:**

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon notes and related biblical passages.

#### **LLM Training Data:**

LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to September 2023.