

Come Follow Me Out of Your Tomb
By Pastor Dennis Shillingburg

- Today is about Jesus – Today is about Jesus
- The enemy wants today to be about bunny rabbits and Easter eggs, but today is about Jesus. Bunny rabbits and Easter eggs are as harmless as spring baseball. It's just a tradition until you make it more. But today, is about Jesus.
- Politicians want today to be about controversial legislation, manipulatively pitting people against each other – but today is about Jesus.
- Financial markets want today to be about inflation, supply chain disruptions and stock market volatility, but today is about Jesus.
- There are people in every state in America and every country of the world who want today to be about their most pressing challenge – but today is about Jesus.
- The enemy, policy makers, financial leaders and people from every tribe and every tongue on earth have a choice to make today and it is their choice to make...
- Make the problems worse, by focusing on how to divide and reject people who stand in their path or choose to make today, right now, about Jesus.
- The problems of the world are real and have got to be addressed openly to repair the hopelessness and frustration experienced by billions of people.
- The Bible is clear, the problems of the world - all of them boil down to one source, Satan – an enemy who is a master at manipulating people, because Good and evil touch the earth through people.
- But the problems of this world are never going to be resolved if today, the day the Lord has made, is not about Jesus.
- I am not saying the problems of the world are only going to be resolved through the followers of Jesus – we have proven that not to be true.
- What I am saying is the followers of Jesus, who make today about Jesus, are the only people, divinely equipped to address the source of every problem on the planet – the devil and his minions. We are called to intercede for people like Jesus does, who we model our lives after.
- Jesus is the only leader to walk the planet, who surrendered his life for the people He came to lead, was killed by the people he came to lead and then rose from the dead to go straight back to forgive and rescue the people he came to lead, and now, intercede for those he came to lead, that we might live to intercede for and serve in the world He has come to rescue.

- No one has overcome rejection like Jesus: When his friends betrayed or abandoned him – he said “Father forgive them.”
- When his own people lied and manipulated to convict him – he said “Father forgive them.”
- When the people he came to rescue shouted for his crucifixion, demanding his death – after all the good he did, people he healed and lives he restored - he said “Father forgive them.”
- When they beat him to within an inch of his life, he said “Father forgive them.”
- When they publicly humiliated and brutally killed him by nailing his hands and feet to a wooden cross - he said “Father forgive them.”
- After being in a garden tomb for three days – the stone rolls away and Jesus walks out of that grave, going right back to the people who abandoned him – with the same message – now personalized for you... *You* are forgiven
- Jesus is not stuck in the tomb rejection put him in
- Even when his own people rejected him – his own tribe conveyed, “You are not the god we want” – even though He revealed the heart of the living God every moment of His existence.
- What god did the people want, much the same god the world is clamoring for today – the god who will do what we want, when we want, the way we want.
- That is not the God of creation, that is a created god – small g.
- The Bible tells us that we are created in His image, He is not created in ours, The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. ~ Colossians 1:15-20
- And yet, He gives humanity the capacity to choose to believe or reject Him. Today is about Jesus.
- He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held Him in low esteem. Surely, He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by

Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. Is. 53:3-5

- So, “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ 1Cor. 15:55-57
- Today is about Jesus for He has risen and emerged from the tomb of rejection.
- Jesus is not stuck in the tomb of sorrows
- Weeping over Jerusalem, over the sin He surrendered his life to conquer – He has risen and said,
- It is time to move through the dark night of sorrows into the bright light of day – to discover the joy that comes in the morning – not live in denial acting like nothing is wrong – but choosing to address the challenges of our lives knowing no matter what comes, we stand up on the redeeming rock of Jesus Christ in the capable hands of the Living God
- Because God provides 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. ~ Isaiah 61:3
- Today is about Jesus because He has risen and emerged from the tomb of sorrows arrayed with a crown of beauty.
- Jesus is not stuck in the tomb of abuse – the words people spoke to Him, trying to tear him down and shut Him up, the beatings He took from the Roman soldiers trying to put Him in his place, the voices from the crowd who days before were shouting ‘Rescue us,’ now shouting crucify Him – mocking Him even to his horrifying and humiliating death – much like the words people have spoken to you that have been as crushing as the blows upon his back, mocked for who you are – even though you are only trying to do good, beaten down for just being you. We live in a time when some people would rather cancel you than have problem-solving discourses with you. The abuses of power in this world are mind numbing and yet
- Today is about Jesus
- Who has risen and emerged from the tomb of abuse – victorious - far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ~ Ephesians 1:21
- Jesus is not stuck in the tomb of isolation and loneliness – betrayed and abandoned by His friends at the end.
- Alone on trial before the high priest, isolated by the liars who accused Him,
- Alone in the praetorium waiting to be beaten by those who mocked His identity as a person of faith, as a human being, let alone the Son of God.

- Alone on the cross mocked without anyone protesting for Him, and in His death, alone for the first time in the history of the eternity, truly alone – separated from His father because of my sin, and the sin of all humanity for all time...
- Today is about Jesus who has risen from the tomb of isolation and loneliness into the eternal community of His Father, the Holy Spirit, and His people – the people He calls Family
- Jesus is not stuck in the tomb of mistaken identity – when everyone around Him was telling Him, “You can’t possibly be who you believe you are, because you don’t fit who we want and expect you to be.”
- Everywhere Jesus went people denied his identity – you can’t possibly be the god I have been hearing about – you’re not rich enough, your army is too small, where is your crown, your servants, your palace, where is your ruthless selfish instinct? You dine with sinners – where is your self-respect, you forgive people, you don’t negotiate with the enemy – you can’t possibly be the god we want.
- Until He walked out of the tomb of mistaken identity, and the 120 who followed him through the cross and the resurrection, now filled with the Spirit – discovered His true identity as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords – seated at the right hand of the Father – who has put all things in heaven and earth under His authority
- There is no mistaking the identity of our Risen King of Kings because
- God has exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the Name that is above every Name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ~ Philippians. 2:9-11
- Today is about Jesus who has risen from the tomb of mistaken identity
- Jesus is not stuck in the tomb of fear and intimidation – where moral, spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical bullies attempted to frighten Him into silence and compliance, to intimidate His decisions and choices.
- At every turn people who stood to lose their real or perceived positional authority made every attempt to intimidate Jesus into backing down from the reasons He came:
 - To seek and save that which was lost,
 - And reveal the heart of our Heavenly Father who seeks to set people free through unconditional love not control through intimidation.
- After being handed over by the high priest to be crucified, Jesus stood in silence before the Roman Magistrate Pilate and when a frustrated Pilate raised his voice to Jesus and said,

- “Do you refuse to speak to me?” “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.” ~ John 19:10-11
- Jesus cannot be intimidated because He knows whose hands He is in – Jesus never looked for an argument and never back down from difficult conversations.
- When people tried to intimidate Him with manipulative questions – Jesus just asked better questions conditioning His response upon their willingness to respectfully engage and answer their own questions.
- Jesus came out of the tomb where the intimidators of His day thought they had terminally cancelled his influence, but little did they know the seed they killed fell to the ground and sprouted an eternal voice that cannot be silenced, because The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you and me. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. ~ Romans 6:10-11.
- What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
- Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ~ Romans 8:31-35
- Jesus took the intimidation and hung it on a cross – nailing it a tree so that it would die and be buried with him.
- Our Risen King has asked us to let His present power do the talking as we do the walking.
- Today is about Jesus who has risen and emerged from the tomb of fear and intimidation
- There’s one final tomb – the tomb of condemnation
- Though Jesus was condemned to death He is not stuck in the tomb of condemnation
- Condemned by those he came to save. Jesus chose not to condemn. Instead, He walked out of the tomb of condemnation on the direct path of forgiveness.
- Are you stuck in the tomb of condemnation? Condemning yourself and others for choices, mistakes and opinions? It’s time to let it go and walk the direct path of forgiveness – forgiving yourself and others.
- No one has the right to use condemnation to force people back into a tomb.

- Jesus says when I, personally, make a judgement call or choice about how I feel – that’s a choice and I have every right to make it. That’s a judgement call about whether I choose to participate or agree.
- But when I decide to share that judgement call with everyone else, demeaning and divisively belittling people for the choices they make – let alone the way they act – I am literally condemning myself. Stuffing myself back into the tomb of condemnation Jesus has set me free from.
- Jesus, in his own words...
- “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Luke 6:37
- Jesus shows us how to walk out of the tomb of condemnation and stay out, because when he left the tomb, He forgave them all.
- Jesus has shown us the way to walk free from the tomb of condemnation because now, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ~ Romans 8:1-2
- Jesus is saying the same thing to us today that he did 2000 years ago, come follow me... out of
- The tomb of rejection, sorrow, abuse, isolation, mistaken identity, fear, intimidation and condemnation
- Jesus is present now, calling you out
- He is our guide – the One who walked out of the tomb having overcome every divisive manipulation of the enemy, even death itself, sets us free and shows us how to walk with Him, overcoming this world.
- Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble but take heart, I have overcome the world,” (John 16:33;) meaning, there is an enemy who wants to stuff you back into the tomb, but you have the power to overcome, and walk free in the light of day.
- Today is about Jesus who overcame and walked out of the tomb to show you how to rise up and walk out of your own tomb of rejection, sorrow, abuse, isolation, mistaken identity, fear, intimidation and condemnation.
- But today it’s your choice to get up and follow Him
- Jesus came out of the tomb – opposite of how He went in – He went in dead and came out alive

- Just like you – when you choose to come out of the tomb with Jesus – the tomb you went in to hide and die – Jesus calls out you out into eternal life to:
- Emerge from *The tomb of rejection*, to live a life of love, acceptance, and forgiveness
- Emerge from *The tomb of sorrows* with the gift of joy, crowned with beauty
- Emerge From *The tomb of abuse* healed by the voice of the King of Peace who is your strong tower and defender – who loves you and is interceding for you even now
- Emerge From *The tomb of isolation* into a relationship with the One who promises to never leave you or forsake you, who is closer than your own breath – into a community of people who cherish and accept you.
- Emerge From *The tomb of mistaken identity*, trusting who you are in Christ – discovering the path he has created, the story He has written for you, when He formed you in your mother’s womb.
- Emerge From *The tomb of fear and intimidation* into quiet, confident fearlessness because you have been given the mind of Christ, inherited a sound mind, not a slave to fear, but the ability to walk in light, for the Kingdom of God that shines brighter than the stars in the heavens.
- Emerge from *The tomb of condemnation* into forgiveness that frees you from the past because
- He forgives all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. ~ Colossians 2:13-15
- When you get up out of your tomb – and walk with Jesus, Your kids will not be raised in your tomb
- Your spouse will not be dragged into your tomb
- Your relationships with family, friends and community become genuine and honest, not hidden behind a stone wall of brokenness.
- When Today is about Jesus – His mercy is new every morning
- When you wake up every day and say out loud – ‘today is about Jesus’ – you walk free from the divisive strategies of the enemy in partnership with our Risen Savior and Friend.
- When you make today about Jesus you are covered by a Risen Savior who speaks over you: accepted, joyful, crowned, faithful, strong, confident, peaceful, chosen, humble, righteous, fearless, forgiven!

- When Jesus emerged from his tomb, those who rejected, grieved, abused, isolated, misunderstood, intimidated and condemned Him had no more power over Him – that is His gift to you this Resurrection Sunday
- Those who have rejected, grieved, abused, isolated, misunderstood, intimidated and condemned you, hold no more power over your destiny because you are in Christ.
- You See, Today is about Jesus
- As the ushers begin to pass communion elements, please hold the cup and bread and we will partake together – I asked Nik and Michelle if they would sing as we prepare our hearts to receive from the Lord
- [“Clean”](#)
- Because of Jesus my heart is clean...
- We come today to the empty cross of Jesus – knowing He has risen from dead and that the power of His blood washes us clean both now and for eternity and that His body, the bread of life, broken for us, now risen – gives us the capacity to live free in Him
- Today as you partake of the bread – remember Jesus words, “This is my body broken for you – do this in remembrance of me – we remember that He has overcome rejection, sorrow, abuse, isolation, mistaken identity, fear, intimidation, and condemnation so that we can walk free with Him.
- Partake of the bread
- As we hold this cup, the cup of redemption – this is the true emblem of our freedom - the blood of Jesus that has washed us clean, paying a debt we could never pay – so that we can live forgiven – you are forgiven
- When you receive the life-giving power of the blood of Jesus. You are made a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come. You may not fully feel it yet, but the blood of Jesus has finished the work of your forgiveness.
- As you partake of the cup – I ask you to say out loud – Today is about You, Jesus, and I Receive Your Forgiveness.
- If you have not yet said yes to Jesus – I invite you to pray with me this simple prayer of surrender
- Today is about you Jesus
- I receive Your free gift of salvation

- To walk into the light of Your glorious grace, freed from my past because Your blood has washed clean, free from the power of sin that once held me, now forgiven – I receive you –
- Please fill me with the Holy Spirit and power that I might walk today and for eternity with you.
- Stand to your feet this morning and say with me
- Today is about Jesus
- Thank you Jesus for rescuing me

17 April 2022
Lighthouse Pacifica