

Jesus is Better

Just about everyone agrees that Jesus was a great man who spoke with wisdom, served the poor, and even worked miracles. But is that all Jesus was - a really great guy? Throughout the years, this world has seen plenty of great men come and go: names like Alexander, Leonardo, Shakespeare, and Churchill come to mind. But nobody worships or prays to other great men like we do with Jesus. So what sets Jesus apart? Why is he worthy, not only of our admiration, but of our worship? For four weeks in September at The Story Church, we'll explore what makes Jesus unique, and we'll discover why the greatness of Jesus surpasses that of even the greatest men on earth.

An Introduction to Today's Speaker, Pastor Bryan Collier

Bryan and Wendy Collier have lived and ministered in Tupelo, Mississippi, since 1998, when they were called to plant a new church called *The Orchard*. They and two dozen others began meeting in a furniture warehouse with the goal of reaching people no one else was reaching. To do that, they resolved to preach the gospel in non-traditional ways. In the six-month preparation period before the plant, the group of 24 expanded to 100. On launch day, that number more than doubled when 256 people attended the first service. Seventeen years later, The Orchard's fruit has multiplied exponentially with seven sites in three communities and averages 2400 in weekly worship.

In 2021, Pastor Bryan joined four other like-minded pastors - including The Story's Lead Pastor Eric Huffman - in establishing *The Foundry Network* (thefoundrynetwork.org) "a community of large, independent churches in the Wesleyan Tradition joining forces for greater Kingdom impact." Bryan has been in Houston since Friday, leading The Story's Board of Directors, staff, and key leaders in our Vision Retreat. We are grateful for his willingness to share his wisdom with The Story this weekend!

September 14, 2025 - Part 2 - Jesus: Human in Every Way - Pastor Bryan Collier

Hebrews 2:5-18 (New Living Translation) - 5 And furthermore, it is not angels who will control the future world we are talking about. 6 For in one place the Scriptures say, "What are mere mortals that you should think about them, or a son of man that you should care for him? 7 Yet for a little while you made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. 8 You gave them authority over all things." Now when it says "all things," it means nothing is left out. But we have not yet seen all things put under their authority. 9 What we do see is Jesus, who for a little while was given a position "a little lower than the angels"; and because he suffered death for us, he is now "crowned with glory and honor." Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone. 10 God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation. 11 So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters. 12 For he said to God, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people." 13 He also said, "I will put my trust in him," that is, "I and the children God has given me." 14 Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. 15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. 16 We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. 18 Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

Can you think of a time when things in your life didn't go according to plan? What happened, and how did you respond?

Why does it matter that God "CHOSE" to bring many children into glory? (verse 10)

What does the writer of Hebrews mean when he says Jesus was "made perfect through suffering"? (v.10) In what way was his suffering and death different from the deaths of martyrs throughout history?

What, specifically, did Jesus die to set us free from? (v.15) What does this mean to you?

Is the promise of freedom in Christ for all eternity, or for today? Why does this matter?

What was the role of the High Priest in the Jewish tradition? What does it mean that Jesus came to be “our merciful and faithful High Priest before God”? (v.17)

DEEP _____ in life comes from _____

Have you experienced this first-hand? How?

How is Jesus able to intercede for us with compassion?

_____ in life comes from _____

No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is currently that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting it, not by giving in. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it. - C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, book 3, chapter 11

How is Jesus uniquely able to help us when we're tempted?

What do you need Jesus to help you with this week?



LifeHouse Serve Day

All ages are invited to serve with our partner LifeHouse! On Saturday, October 4 (9-11:30am) we'll help pack and move household items and furniture at their housing complex. Visit our website to register: thestory.church/events



Upcoming BeLoved Women's Ministry Luncheon

Save the date to join us on Friday, October 24 at 11:30am for our Fall BeLoved luncheon, featuring Allison Evans & Taylor Dukes! Visit thestory.church/events to read more and purchase your ticket to attend.



Fall Festival for Families

Save the date to join us on Saturday, October 25 (10am-Noon) for our annual Fall Festival in River Oaks! This event is open to families with children of all ages. Visit thestory.church/events to read more about reserving your FREE tickets and volunteering at the event.