

# Life's Change Points: Embracing God and Those Shaping Surprises

FACING LIFE'S "CHANGE POINTS" WITH JESUS

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Mt. Vernon Christian Church



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Let's read together from God's Word.

(These verses can also be found in your bulletin,  
in the inner lower-right-hand corner.)

- Luke 4:8
- Luke 22:42
- Luke 23:46
- John 19:29-30

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Life is made up of chapters...each one unique, with its own special focus, **connected by LIFE'S CHANGE POINTS**

*Personal Example: "John or Mary Smith"*

Childhood

Teenage  
Years

College

Early  
Career

Marriage  
&  
Parenting

Grand-  
parenting!

Retirement

?

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**STEPS** in the midst of changing chapters...this is what God often does during life's change points that makes it possible for us to thrive. **God...**

- **S**peaks
- **T**ransforms
- **E**ncourages
- **P**rovides
- **S**teers

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*Biblical Example: Jesus*

Birth in Bethlehem

Early Years in Egypt

Growing-Up in Nazareth

(Care for Household, Mother?)

3 Years of Public Ministry

40 Days of Resurrected Life

Seated with God the Father

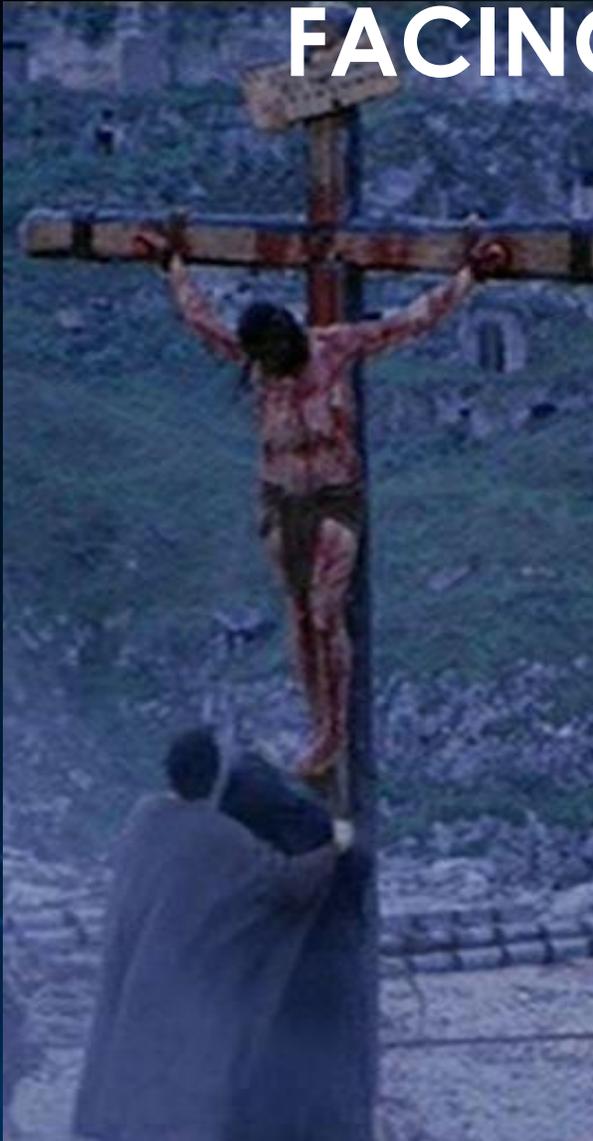
Returning Savior and Lord

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## Surprises in Life's CHANGE POINTS

- Life will never be the same.
- What seems like total defeat, total failure, can become complete joy and unexpected fulfillment.
- The **STEPS** God takes to walk us through life's **change points** are able to transform not only our situation, but our character, our focus, and our relationships.



from the film,  
"The Passion of the Christ"

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Learning with Jesus and his seven last words...how he faced life's greatest "change point" ever:

1. Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them..."
2. Luke 23:43 "...today you will be with me..."
3. John 19:26-27 "Woman, behold your son. Son, ..."
4. Mark 15:34 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
5. John 19:28 "I thirst."
6. John 19:30 "It is finished."
7. Luke 23:46 "Father, into your hands I commend..."

# FACING LIFE'S "CHANGE POINTS" WITH JESUS

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As God takes **STEPS** to help us through life's change points, how can we best **PARTNER** with God?

- **P**ray – fresh from the heart; and ask for prayer
- **A**ffirm – to God your trust, surrender, commitment
- **R**espond – with compassion and forgiveness to others.
- **T**ough it out in communication – clear, courageous
- **N**eglect distractions – don't get sidetracked; focus
- **E**ndure – change points don't come to stay; they intro.
- **R**efresh & **R**est – see the big picture; rest in God's care

# FACING LIFE'S "CHANGE POINTS" WITH JESUS

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You may be going through one of life's "change points" right now. If so, please know...

- God is taking **STEPS** to help you through.
- You can **PARTNER** with God as he guides you through.

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You may be going through one of life's "change points" right now. If so, please know...

- God is taking **STEPS** to help you through.
- You can **PARTNER** with God as he guides you through.

Or...You may be in the midst of a chapter of life.

- Practicing how to **PARTNER** with God will help you prepare to make it through future "change points!"

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