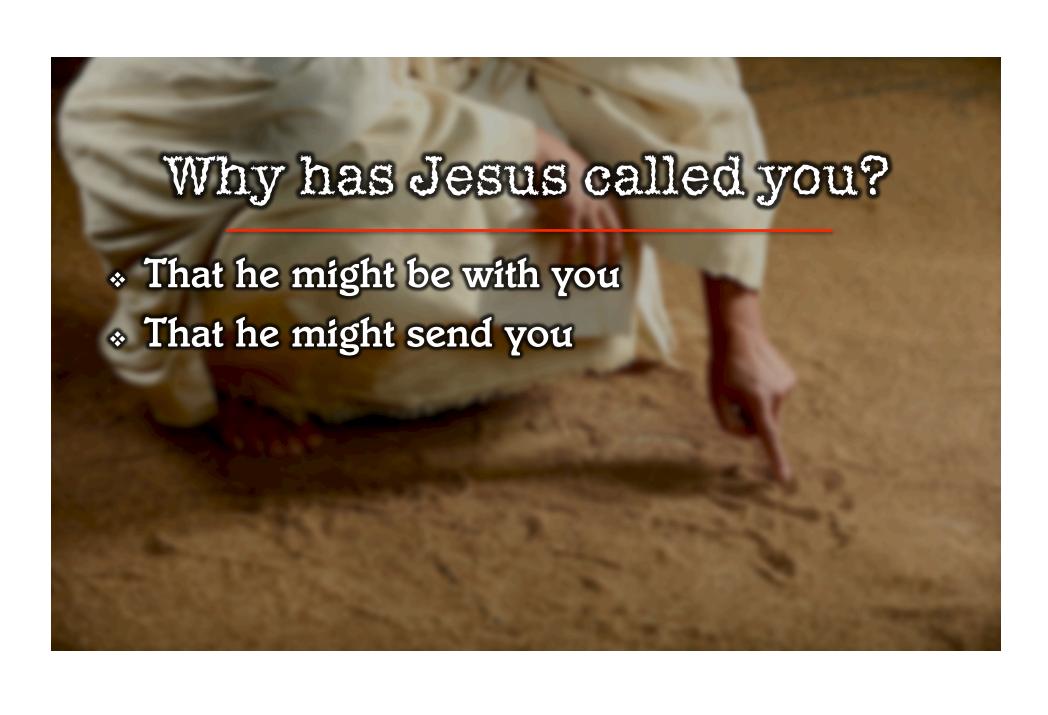


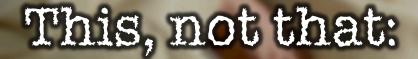


- * Believe and change.
- * Reject and find something else to believe.



- * The yoke of burden
- The cup of suffering
- * The towel of service
- * The cross of execution





- Desperate, not arrogant (3)
- Compassionate, not unconcerned (4)
- Submissive, not pushy (5)
- Hungry for God, not self-satisfied (6)
- Merciful, not harsh (7)



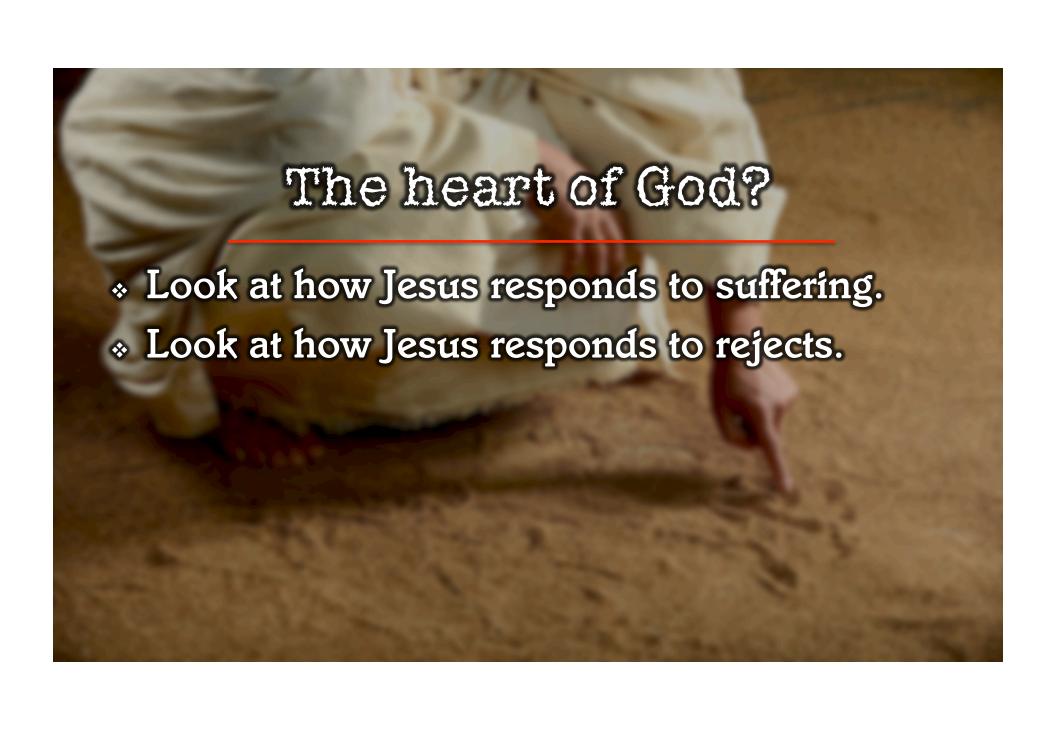
- * Pure in heart, not deceitful (8)
- Peaceful, not violent (9)
- * Kingdom-advancing, not self-preserving (10)



- * Why should we love our enemies?
- * Why be holy?
- * Why live without worry?
- * Why store up treasures in Heaven?
- * Why pray?

Miracles show:

- * Jesus is cause for celebration.
- * Suffering may be for God's glory.
- Jesus made it a priority to spend time alone in prayer.
- * Jesus is our true source for sustenance.
- * Jesus cares.



The mission of Jesus

- * To set the oppressed free
- To proclaim
 - Good news to the poor
 - * Freedom for the prisoners
 - * Recovery of sight for the blind
 - * The year of the LORD's favor



And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.



1 Corinthians 15:17-19

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.





While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

Matthew 28:12-14

When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."



So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.



- * Believe and change.
- * Reject and find something else to believe.



"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

1 Corinthians 15:3-5

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.



After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.



Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.



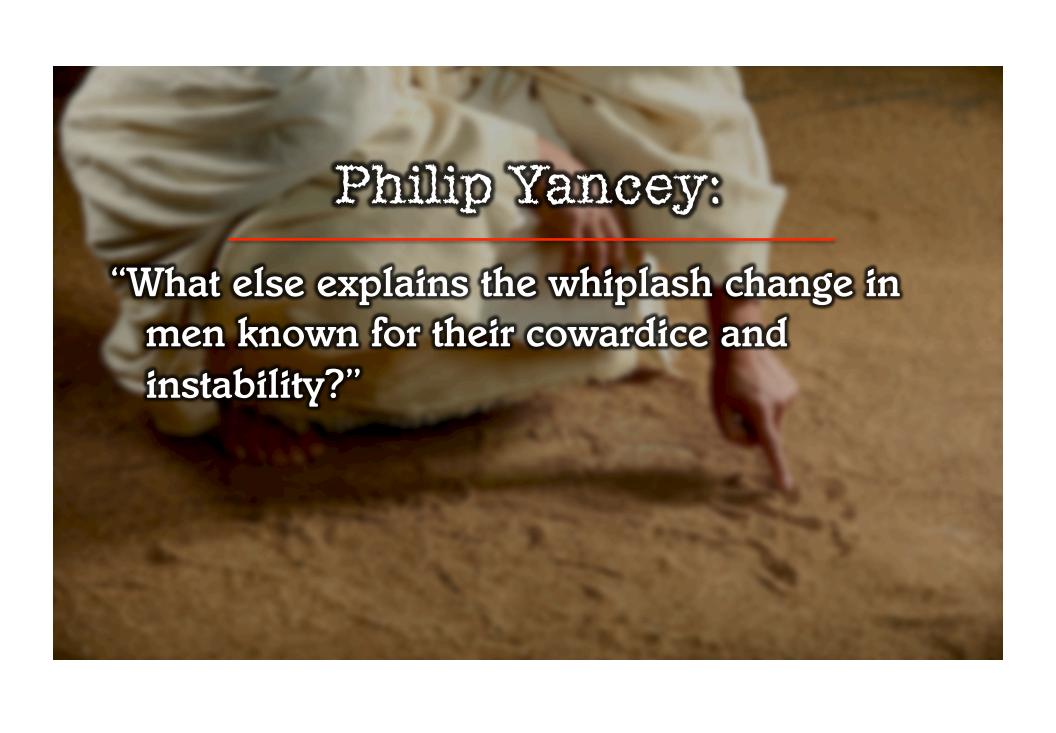
Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Philip Yancey:

"That Jesus succeeded in changing a snuffling band of unreliable followers into fearless evangelists, that eleven men who had deserted him at death now went to martyrs' graves avowing their faith in a resurrected Christ,

Philip Yancey:

"that these few witnesses managed to set loose a force that would overcome violent opposition first in Jerusalem and then in Rome — this remarkable sequence of transformation offers the most convincing evidence for the Resurrection.







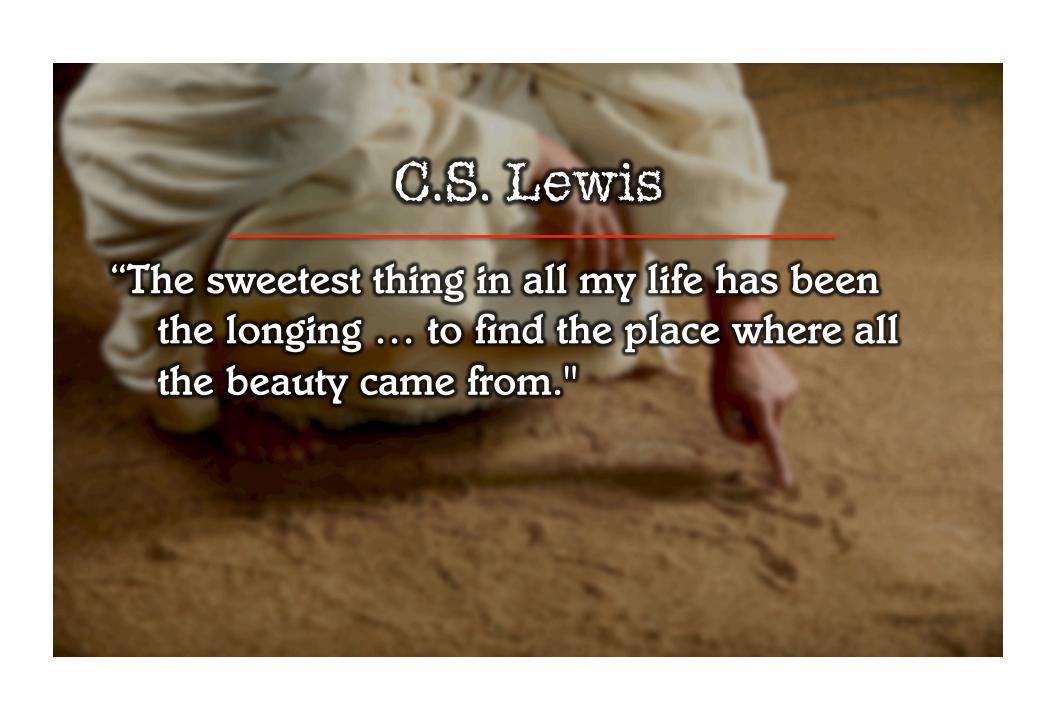
"The Resurrection is not a belief that grew up within the church; it is the belief around which the church itself grew up, and the 'given' upon which its faith is based."

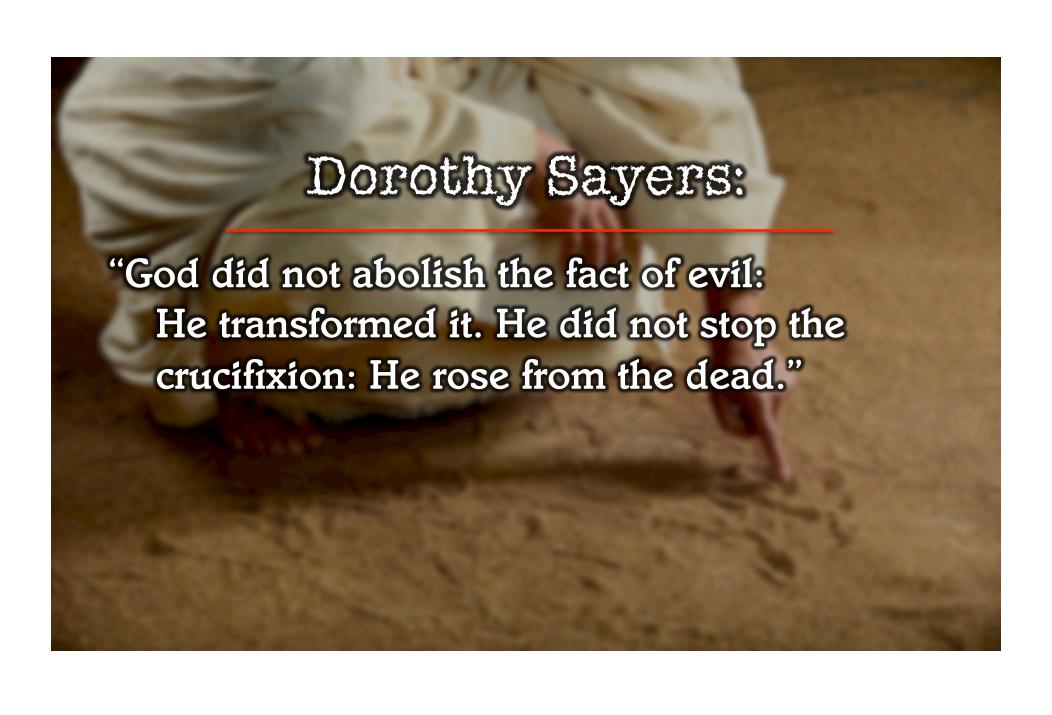


- * Frank Morrison, Who Moved the Stone?
- Josh McDowell, Evidence that Demands a Verdict
- * Lee Strobel, The Case for Easter



[David]: "But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."







- * Rome still ruled Israel.
- The religious leaders persecuted the disciples to death.
- * Violence and pain and death continued.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.





Are you being called?

- * To receive Christ
- To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- * To pray / to receive prayer
- * To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- * To receive the LORD's Supper