



Week 7 | How Jesus Rescues Men

Big Idea: Jesus changes us from the inside out by giving us a new identity, a new standing before God, a new Master, and a new life.

Foundational Passage: Romans 6:1–14

The message of Christianity is that healing from our wounds and redemption from our depravity can only come from a heart transformed by the divine Savior.

I. Lasting change happens beneath our behavior – How men are shaped:

1. Belief (convictions)
2. Value (affections)
3. Behavior (words and actions)
4. Virtue (character)

II. JESUS CONFRONTS RELIGION AND IRRELIGION

There are two common ways to live apart from grace:

1. Irreligion/rebellion says that God does not care how I live (relativism)
2. Religion/self-righteousness says that God will love me if I measure up (moralism)

Jesus confronts both: John 8:1–11

III. JESUS RESCUES MEN FROM THE SIN BENEATH THE SIN

The sin beneath my sin is always idolatry. (Exodus 20:3–4)

“An idol is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God.”

— Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods* (2009).

To identify possible idols, ask yourself:

1. What do I build my identity on—what do I feel I cannot do without?
2. What makes me unusually angry or afraid when it is threatened?
3. What do I boast about or most want others to notice?
4. Where do I turn first for peace, comfort, or reassurance when life is difficult?



IV. HOW DOES JESUS RESCUE MEN?

1. Jesus is our Savior. (Romans 6:1–4)

Where are you trying to earn significance? (Luke 3:22)

2. Jesus is our Righteousness. (Romans 6:5–7)

Are you trying to impress God, or others? (Gal 1:10)

3. Jesus is our God. (Romans 6:8–11)

What is competing with Jesus for control of your heart?

4. Jesus is our Life. (Romans 6:12–14)

The central question is not simply, “How can I become a better man?” It is, “Will I trust Jesus with the heart beneath my behavior and live in light of what He has done for me?”

V. PUTTING INTO PRACTICE:

1. Name the behavior - Be honest about the action, habit, attitude, or pattern that needs to change.
2. Ask what lies beneath it - What am I believing? What am I loving or fearing? What am I trying to get or protect?
3. Confess the idol - Name the good thing that may have become an ultimate thing—approval, money, control, comfort, success, or something else.
4. Replace the lie with God’s truth - Return to what Romans 6 says about your identity in Christ, your standing by grace, your new Master, and your new life.
5. Take one obedient step - Choose a practical response: tell the truth, ask forgiveness, seek accountability, make restitution where appropriate, or change a pattern that feeds the temptation.
6. Pray and walk with others – you don’t got this! Ask God for help, and invite a trusted believer to encourage you and ask honest questions.

VI. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you look below the surface of your sin, what kind of wrong beliefs and values do you most commonly find there?
2. What kind of “religious” activities have you used to grow spiritually, only to find yourself growing in pride and self-righteousness?
3. Which part of Jesus’ mediating work for you helps you most in finding freedom from your idols? Explain your answer.
4. Have you put your full trust in Jesus alone to save you from your sin and give you a new heart?