

▼ **Jesus at Tabernacles - Part 1**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday September 13, 2026

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▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are continuing through John 7.
- We will have Life Group after the message.

▼ **Thoughts**

▼ **Video**

- [Chase: We Talkin' Bout Cashbacking I Chase Freedom Unlimited](#) - YouTube (00:00:30)
- [Talking About Making Disciples](#) - YouTube (00:00:25)

▼ **Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:**

- The apostles' teaching
- fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- prayer
- **Cultural Rivers**

▼ **Overview**

- ▶ **In today's message we will do the following:**

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▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:36-39
- Acts 17:29-31
- Review our passage - John 7:14-24
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group.

▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Why are we here?**

- Acts 2:29-39 - Spoken to Jews

"Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.**"

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

- Acts 17:29-31 - Spoken to Gentiles

"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. **For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.**"

▼ **Welcome to John!**

▼ Video

- [Bible Project: John 1-12](#) - (00:08:46)

- John 20:30-31

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- John 21:25

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

▼ Embrace Jesus' Mission

▼ Jesus' mission, (expressed in the synoptic gospels) still applies.

- Matthew 4:17 – “Repent, for the Kingdom of God has come near!”
- Mark 1:14-15 – “The Kingdom of God has come near . . .”
- Luke 4:14-21 – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . .”

▼ Feed on the Life of Jesus

- Are you “worded up”?
- Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17
- Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

▼ What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of Matthew in September (9/1 – 9/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in October (10/1 – 10/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in November (11/1 – 11/24)
- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)

▼ For September this means:

- Read Matthew 12 on September 12 (yesterday).
- Read Matthew 13 on September 13 (today).
- Read Matthew 14 on September 14 (tomorrow).
- etc.
- As you read, write down any questions you have.
- ▼ Ask yourself the following questions:
 - What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
 - What would I like to better understand about this chapter?

- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

▼ **Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:**

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

▼ **Video:**

- [Discipleship.ORG: Key Disciple Making Definitions for Church Leaders](#) - YouTube (00:05:26)
- [The Ministers Corner: Part 1/3: Inductive Bible Study Method \(Observation\)](#) - YouTube (00:06:27)
- [The Ministers Corner: Part 2/3: Inductive Bible Study \(Interpretation\)](#) - YouTube (00:11:50)
- [The Ministers Corner: Part 3/3: Inductive Bible Study \(Application\)](#) - YouTube (00:07:18)
- [Bible Project: Eternal Life](#) - YouTube (00:05:30)

▼ **Making Disciples:**

▼ **A Disciple is someone who is:**

- Following Jesus
- Being changed by Jesus
- Committed to the mission of Jesus
- **We want to establish a disciple-making community.**

▼ **Moralistic Therapeutic Deism**

- [What You Should Know About Moralistic Therapeutic Deism](#) - YouTube (00:09:12)
- [Wikipedia: Moralistic Therapeutic Deism](#)

▼ Principal Elements

- 1) A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- 2) God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- 3) The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- 4) God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- 5) Good people go to heaven when they die.

▼ Comments

- Introduced in the 2005 book “Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers” by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- ▼ According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book “Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church”:
 - “The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe: namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people . . .”

▼ Observations

- ▼ MTD is an example of the fundamental human problem in the Bible:
 - ▼ People try figuring out good and bad on their own without God.
 - Adam and Eve took the fruit of the tree of knowing good and bad.
 - Solomon asked God for the knowledge of good and bad.
 - ▼ People construct their own path to God:
 - Other individual religions
 - Blending religions (e.g. “My Sweet Lord” by George Harrison).

▼ Biblical World View:

- [Bible Project: Design Patterns](#) - (00:06:07)

▼ **The Bible reflects a world view of its own:**

- Human nature keeps repeating the same mistakes.
- God's plan to fix us culminates in Jesus and the Church.
- Neither conservatives nor progressives have a better solution to the human problem!

▼ **Stages In Old Testament History**

- Creation - Adam and Eve - Genesis 1-2
- The Fall - Choosing to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Bad. - Genesis 3
- Cain & Abel - Genesis 4
- Seth, Enosh - People begin to call on the name of the Lord. - Genesis 4
- Enoch - The man who walked with God. - Genesis 5
- Sons of God & daughters of men. God decides to wipe out his creation. - Genesis 6
- Noah finds favor. The Flood. God's Covenant. The Nations. - Genesis 6-10
- Tower of Babel - Genesis 11
- Abraham - Genesis 12
- Israel - Genesis 32
- The Exodus - Exodus, etc.
- The Sinai Covenant (Ten Commandments, etc.) - Exodus, etc.

▼ **Will God's Kingdom ultimately be coercive or non-coercive?**

- Full access to and memory of Bible history will enable the heirs of salvation to avoid humanity's mistakes.
- We will ultimately fully embrace God's solutions - centered on Jesus!

▼ **John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He

who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ”) Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

▼ Observations

- Jesus came to “his own” (i.e. Israel), but most of them did not receive him. Those who did receive him were enabled to become God’s children.
- You are not automatically God’s child just because you are human!

▼ Those who “receive Jesus”:

- They don’t try to fit Jesus into their preconceived categories.
- They embrace Jesus’ words, definitions, and perspectives.

▼ John 7:14-24

Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. The Jews there were amazed and asked, “How did this man get such learning without having been taught?”

Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?”

“You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?”

Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath? Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”

▼ Narrative

- Jesus goes up to Jerusalem halfway through Feast of Tabernacles celebration.
- He begins to teach.
- The Jews wonder where he got such learning without being taught.
- Jesus explains that his teaching comes from God; he teaches for God’s glory.
- Jesus confronts them about trying to kill him.
- The crowd accuses Jesus of having a demon and asks who is trying to kill him.
- Jesus points out their amazement at the miracle he performed.
- He points out that they circumcise a boy on the Sabbath in order to keep the law, but they are angry with him for healing a man’s whole body on Sabbath.
- He challenges them to judge correctly instead of by mere appearances.

▼ Observations

- If you don't understand the difference between the worldview of the Bible and the worldviews found in our culture, you won't understand what Jesus says and does.
- Here John, the author of this gospel, is less focused on the content of Jesus' teaching and more focused on the reaction of his audience.
- Jesus' audience is from Israel, the nation called by God to demonstrate to the world what it looks like when God is King. The old testament records the failure of Israel to live up to this calling.
- If Jesus says his teaching is from God, we need to receive it on that basis.
- If Jesus says people are trying to kill him, it's true.
- If Jesus has a problem with our tradition, our tradition needs to change.

- **Parallel & Related Passages**

- ▼ **Lessons**

- How does MTD compare with your past and/or current world view? How does it compare with the worldview of people you know?
- Have you had any recent struggles with something Jesus said or did? Discuss.
- Have you encountered any recent opposition when trying to follow Jesus? Discuss.
- Describe the unchurched people in your sphere of influence. What thresholds are they at (e.g. trust, curiosity, open to change, seeking)?

- ▼ **Life Group**

- ▼ **Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)**

- [Icebreaker](#)

- **Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)**

- ▼ **Word - Discussion Questions**

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- **What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?**
- **What does this passage mean to you?**
- **How will you apply this passage this coming week?**

- ▼ **Witness**

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

- ▼ **Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.**
 - ▼ What level are you at with these?
 - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
 - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
 - **Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.**



Jesus at Tabernacles – Part 1

Sunday September 13, 2026



Welcome!



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Thoughts



- Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:
 - the apostles' teaching
 - fellowship
 - the breaking of bread
 - prayer
- Cultural Rivers



Overview



In today's message we will deal with the following:

- Why are we here?
 - Acts 2:29-39
 - Acts 17:29-31
- Review our passage – John 7:14-24
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group.



Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)

Are you “worded up”?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

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- The Gospel of Mark in October (10/1 – 10/16)
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Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)

For September this means:

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- etc.



Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)

As you read, write down any questions you have.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
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Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)

Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
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- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!



Discipleship Definition

A Disciple is someone who is:

- Following Jesus
- Being changed by Jesus
- Committed to the mission of Jesus

We want to establish a disciple-making community!



Moralistic Therapeutic Deism





Moralistic Therapeutic Deism 1 of 3

Principal Elements (sounds good, but this is NOT Christianity):

1. A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
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5. Good people go to heaven when they die.



Moralistic Therapeutic Deism 2 of 3

Comments

- Introduced in the 2005 book “Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers” by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book “Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church”:
- “The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe: namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people . . .”



Moralistic Therapeutic Deism 3 of 3

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Bible Project: Design Patterns





Biblical World View



The Bible reflects a world view of its own:

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Stages In Old Testament History

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Stages In Old Testament History (cont.)

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This history will allow those who enter the Kingdom age to obey God non-coercively!



Stages In Old Testament History (cont.)

Will God's Kingdom ultimately be coercive or non-coercive?

- Full access to and memory of Bible history will enable the heirs of salvation to avoid humanity's mistakes.
- We will ultimately fully embrace God's solutions - centered on Jesus!



John 1:1-18 (NIV) 1 of 2

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The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**



John 1:1-18 (NIV) 2 of 2

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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Observations



- Jesus came to “his own” (i.e. Israel), but most of them did not receive him. Those who did receive him were enabled to become God’s children.
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John 7:14-24 (NIV) 1 of 2

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John 7:14-24 (NIV) 2 of 2

“You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered. “Who is trying to kill you?”

Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath? Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.”



Narrative



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Lessons



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- Have you had any recent struggles with something Jesus said or did? Discuss.
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- Describe the unchurched people in your sphere of influence. What thresholds are they at (e.g. trust, curiosity, open to change, seeking)?



Life Groups



Word - Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

Witness (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.
- What level are you at with these?
 - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
 - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.



Announcements



- Sunday Service September 13, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/16) 7pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service September 20, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/23) 7pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service September 27, 2026
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/30) 7pm - via Zoom

Visitor Page



Life Groups



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