**Series Road Map**

**Series Overview:** In order to see the power of what Jesus said, sometimes, we need to look at what Jesus didn’t say. Jesus said a lot of things, but Jesus also clearly didn’t say a lot of things. We’re looking at 4 things Jesus didn’t say and discovering the Truth about these commonly misunderstood topics.

**Week Overview:** Sometimes, we believe that following God should be easy. Jesus came to save us from our problems, right? While God came to save us, He also promised trials. Jesus didn’t say that life should be easy. With God’s peace and presence, life can get better.

***Outline:***

**Grab the Room (Intro):** Story of something you thought would be easy

**Tension (what’s the struggle):** We believe following Christ should be easy.

**Text:** John 16:33

**THP**: Better not breezy…

**Supporting Points:** Following God may not change your world, but it will change how you interact with the world.

Life can be tough…but life can also get better.

Your pain doesn’t have to be louder than the power of God’s presence.

**Application (call to action):**

Invite God into your world to help you fight the battle

Response Song

Message Series: Things Jesus Never Said

Message Title: It Should Be Easy

Key: [Media] Scripture Slides

Have you ever tried something thinking it would be easy?

[Story of something you tried that was harder than you thought]

Now, I’m a pretty quick learner, and I can pick up on things quickly. I was one of the first to pick up concepts in school. I could learn techniques in sports I played easily. I even picked up on [insert funny/random fact that’s false]…totally kidding on that last one.

But, as easy as it was to pick up on things, one thing I could NEVER learn was guitar. I was given my uncle’s old Squier Stratocaster that he used to jam out to. I knew what it could sound like, and it was killer… I wanted to do the same. Plus, I looked around at anyone who could play guitar, and even if they looked like a C, because they could play guitar, they became a solid A-… c’mon, don’t look at me like I’m shallow, you know it’s true. The guy with the guitar got the ladies, and this was my ticket out of singleness.

But, I can’t tell you how many times I tried to learn that dumb guitar. I picked up “How to play guitar for dummies,” and I thought surely I can learn this. How hard can it be. My other friends have zero athletic ability/coordination, and they seem to be just fine. So, I taught myself the classic 3 or 4 chords, and would practice for maybe an hour, and keep it up like 3 days in a row….and then, I realized it was hard.

The guys on stage made it look so easy, and I knew this was going to be a lot harder than it looked. And because it was hard, I gave up. Not forever…every once in awhile, I would have a boost of motivation and I would try to learn that guitar again, only to learn that it was still, in fact, difficult.

For someone that things came naturally to, I found playing guitar defeating. And since I don’t like to have things be difficult, I quit. Most things were easy, and this was hard…so it must not be for me.

Tension

But, guys, isn’t this how we treat Christianity sometimes? We think it should be easy because we saw a friend or a pastor who made it simple. We thought, “All I have to do is say this simple prayer, and my life will get better!” That sounds too good to be true, but OK!”

Well, it sounded too good to be true because it was. You might have started following Jesus in hope that your life would fall into place. You thought that bully would stop being mean, maybe you thought that addiction would magically disappear, your family wouldn’t fight anymore. You thought that following God would make your life easy.

And this probably isn’t your fault for thinking this. But if you decided to follow Jesus, it doesn’t mean it would be easy. Or, maybe you haven’t decided to put your trust in Jesus yet, and I just want to be clear, following Jesus is worth it, and it can absolutely change your life, and it is so worth following Him. And even if you’re a quick learner, you will always have room to grow and improve on becoming like Jesus because you can’t master being a Christian…there is always room for improvement.

But listen, Jesus never said it will be easy. Jesus never said, pray this prayer, and you won’t have bad times. Jesus never said follow me, and everything will fall into place…and if it’s hard, you know it’s not real.

Truth

But listen to what He did say. Before Jesus is brought to the cross, he is warning His closest followers that things are not about get easier. In fact, He says He won’t be with them for awhile, and it’s going to be tough… Jesus is about to be crucified, and He’s preparing His followers to help them understand what is coming, because so far, Jesus has been with them, and it’s been a lot of fun and games.

They have seen Him walk on water, That’s pretty cool. They have seen him bring dead people back to life…imagine that party trick in your back pocket. He’s seen Jesus flat out embarrass the authorities and stick it to the man when the Pharisees tried to stump Him. Things have been easy for the disciples so far, and they have been on adventure seeing miracles, walking with God in human form, and experiencing incredible purpose and vision for their lives…but things are about to be different once Jesus is crucified.

It will get tough. It will be a little scary for them. They may doubt Jesus when it gets difficult, but Jesus said all of this to prepare them.

Listen to Jesus’s words to his disciples In John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Jesus said, I have told you these things so that you can have peace. Jesus didn’t say I told you these things to that all your problems can go away, but so that you can have peace.

In this world, you WILL have trouble…hold up, Jesus said that we would have trouble? He said it will be difficult? I’m out…Why would we follow him? Listen, You will have trouble with or without Jesus in your life. You can choose to do life with or without the power and peace of the God of the universe living inside of you…the choice is yours.

But there is more. Jesus says, there will be trouble in this world, but take heart I have overcome the world. The world may be difficult, but I am bigger than the world. The world may have problems, but I have created a solution. The world may be chaotic, but I have promised you peace in your storms.

Following Jesus won’t always make your life easier, but it will make your life better. In other words, Jesus said your life will get “Better not Breezy.” There will be troubles in this life…and sometimes, following Jesus might actually bring up some unforeseen challenges that you’re already experiencing, but He will always make your life better.

But, this is sometimes easier said than done...because, I know when I experience troubles, it can feel like God is abandoning me or somehow I’m not following Him hard enough. And if I was doing the right things, life wouldn’t be so difficult. Personal examples if you have them.

Maybe you can feel this too…you think if you just loved God more, that family member wouldn’t have gotten that divorce. If you were doing your devos more, you wouldn’t have the bullying problem at your school. Or, because you decided to follow Christ, that relative shouldn’t have gotten sick…

Listen, we live in a broken world. And just because there are problems, it doesn’t mean God is not with us. God created everything good, but when sin entered the world, brokenness entered into the world. God’s plan was not to have sickness, pain, brokeness, loneliness, depression, or anxiety...but, in His kindness because we messed up the original plan, He made a way to get through the mess.

Satan would love nothing more than to keep you entrenched in the lie that if you follow God, life should be easy. And if life isn’t easy, God has somehow failed you or He isn’t that good to begin with...Guys, this is such a lie, one that I think too many of us have bought into!

Listen, the presence of problems does not mean there is an absence of God. In fact, the presence of problems reveals a need for God, and it reminds us that once was perfect is broken because of sin...and God has made a way to help us through the storm, the mess of life that we have made it.

God has not abandoned you. In fact, He is closer than you think, and He may be just waiting for an invitation to comfort you and help you through your problem with His supernatural strength.

Following Jesus doesn’t always change your circumstances, but it changes how you face go through your circumstances. It may not change your world, but it changes how you interact with your world. While it may not seem like God is working on all of these outside situations, God can be intensely focused on the work inside of you.

Story of how God gave you peace in a trial.

In 5th grade, my sister was going to adopt a child. They had been trying to have kids for many years, and they just couldn’t get pregnant. And so, they decided to adopt. They found an adoptive family, and they found out they were going to have a baby boy. They had the name picked out, and told all their friends in excitement. My parents were about to be grandparents for the first time…I was about to be an uncle, and that just didn’t seem real because I was 11.

But, just one month before the child was to be born, it died. The baby was healthy, but randomly, there were some complications. I remember going to the funeral, and for the first time, I wondered why God would let this happen. My parents are Christians. My sister and her husband are Christians. Everyone was praying for and so excited for this child…but, it still died.

For one of the first times in my life, things got really difficult, and it shook my faith. It made me wonder if I believed in God. And if He was real, we must be doing something wrong.

But years later…and many years later, I had to wrestle down and realize that God doesn’t always change our world, but He changes how we interact with the world…and He is still good no matter what happens. And He changes how we interact with the world by giving us the assurance that even though we don’t understand everything, even if our world is chaotic, He can give us peace in our trials.

Following Jesus doesn’t always make our lives easier, but it does make our life better. Again, better not breezy. How? He makes our life better because instead of being crushed by the world, we can have strength because Jesus gives us power that we do not have on our own. He can give us peace when our world is falling apart. He can give us direction when we feel so lost and confused. And He can give us hope for a better future when we feel like the darkness is closing in.

Life can be tough…but life can also get better. One of those statements will be more true for your life. You can choose to hold onto the hurt, the frustration, the bitterness, the chaos…and you may have every reason to hold onto this…but you also can know that life can get better because Jesus has overcome the world.

That no matter what you are going through, God is bigger than your circumstance, and He will see you through it! With God, our lives can always get better, not breezy. Let’s take a look at Mason Utzig, a senior student at the Carmel campus to see how God used an incredibly tough situation, but he helped make his life better through the storm...

Mason’s Testimony Video

Application

You may feel crushed by the world, but you need to know that God has overcome the world. You may feel like God has abandoned you, but you need to know that He is closer than you think and way stronger than you could imagine. You may feel like there is no hope, but you need to know that God made Himself known, He came to be with us in human form so that we could have hope for a better future. He didn’t come to make life easy, but He came to be with us, to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we could have peace.

We can do life with the power of the living God inside of us. So, you may be here, and you’ve lost all hope. You may be here, and you tried the Jesus thing, and it got hard, so you gave up…and today, you need to know that God is with you, and it won’t be easy, but it can get better.

Maybe tonight, you need to invite God into your problems to not just get rid of the problem, but you need to invite God to get you through the problem. God doesn’t just want to make our lives easier, but he wants you to get stronger. He wants you to know that with Him, you can go through dark valleys, lonely seasons, chaotic emotions, deep depression, hurtful wounds, and difficult relationships because when you lean into God, He gives you a peace that passes all understanding a strength that sustains when you have run out of your own power. What would your life look like if you truly knew that God was with you? And God’s goal is not to just make your life easier, but He does want to make your life better.

He wants to make your life better by strengthening you. He wants to teach you something new. He wants you to trust Him in a new way because we can only get so far on our own power. He wants to make your life better by guiding you instead of just feeling lost in your pain...because in this life, we will have pain; but with God and the help of community, we can get through. And, God may not have caused your pain, but He can use any hardship to make you stronger, no matter how messed up or painful the experience is.

Your pain doesn’t have to be louder than the power of God’s presence. You may feel absolutely surrounded by problems in this world, and when you do, remember that God has overcome the world. And no matter what you are going through, you can fight the battle you are going through knowing that God has already gone before you, and He has won the war.

And, you may feel like you’re in the battle that breaks you, but if you would just look ahead, you would know that Jesus wins it all, and you can have victory! You may feel surrounded by trials, but would the truth of knowing that God is surrounding you, making you stronger, would that be more real and true in your circumstances so that you can fight your battles…knowing you are not alone, and God has not abandoned you. How can you invite God into your world to experience the power He has to help you fight your battles?

Life may not always be easier, but it can get better…and few things remind me of God’s presence in my life like worship. So, let’s declare the truth that we do have battles. Life may get difficult. But my God is with me, and He helps me fight my battles…and that is enough.

Let’s sing.

Response Song- Surrounded(fight my battles) [in the folder if you don’t have live worship]...The quality of the download isn’t awesome, but it’s the best I could find.