

Real

The real places of real obedience
on the realest day ever!

2025 Preaching Strategy

From *spiritual curiosity* (Vapor)

To *spiritual conversion* (Path Forward)

To *spiritual maturity* (Real)

March 30th	Upper Room	Earnest Imitation	“Do as I have done to you”
April 6th	Olive Grove	Soul-Crushing Surrender	“My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death”
April 13th	Courtroom	Public Speech	“I spoke nothing in secret”
April 18th (Good Friday)	Place of the Skull	Death-Defying Trust	“Father, I entrust My spirit into Your hands”
April 20th (Easter)	Garden Tomb	Divine Power	“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth”

Joseph Ratzinger,
Pope Benedict XVI

"It was here that Jesus experienced that final loneliness, the whole anguish of the human condition. Here the abyss of sin and evil penetrated deep within His soul. Here He was to quake with foreboding of His imminent death. Here He was kissed by the betrayer. Here He was abandoned by all the disciples. Here He wrestled with His destiny for my sake."

Four Ways

Gethsemane Shocks Us

1. A shock to our doubts
2. A shock to our theology
3. A shock to our desires
4. A shock to our shame

A shock to our doubts...

The honesty of Gethsemane may create confusion theologically, but it lends credibility historically.

The gospels are "history from below."

- In the ancient world, histories from the lowly about the lowly did not exist.
- Gospels written in "common Greek," language of middle/lower class.
- Jesus' parables choose scenarios from lives of commoners (fishing, farming, shepherding, day labor).
- The disciples are portrayed often in unfavorable ways.
- Occasionally Jesus is portrayed in questionable ways.

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Uniquely Christian Essential Beliefs

1. God is triune –
one God, three persons.