

**April 7, 2019**

**John 13:4-5**

## **“The Heart of Christ**

**We don't find God by being right,  
rather we find God by being wrong.**

**We show people our God in the  
places we are wrong by how we deal  
with our wrongness.**



<sup>4</sup> ... he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing.

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Leads by serving.

Cares by proximity.

Loves regardless of past, present, or future life choices.

Trust sinners to ...

**The Heart of Christ** is for everyone,  
not just those we like.



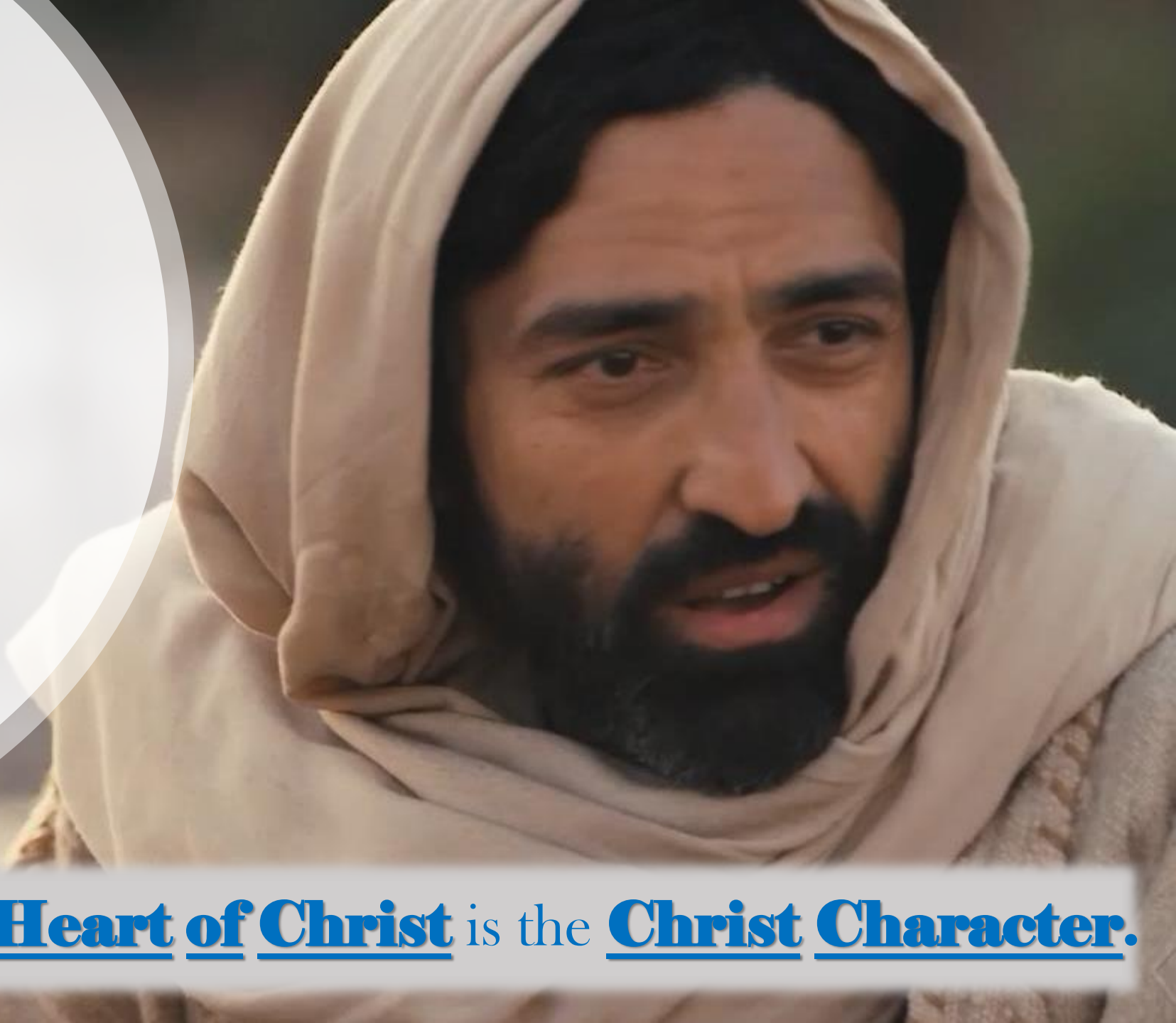
As **Christ** came to show  
us how to be **human**.

We are to create a **place**  
that is truly **human**  
as **Christ** was **human**.

A **place** where there is only  
compassion, acceptance,  
humble gentleness  
as the norm.

The is the **Christ Place**.

The **Heart of Christ** is the **Christ Character**.



## The Heart/Character of Christ

- Merciful and compassionate.
- Very patient and full of faithful love.
- Ready to forgive.
- Will restore what has been lost. – Joel 2



Finding the **Heart of Christ**  
is a series discoveries...

Of being wrong

Of letting go

Of not being afraid or anxious

Of not being in control

Of choosing a life of

Of Being judgmental.

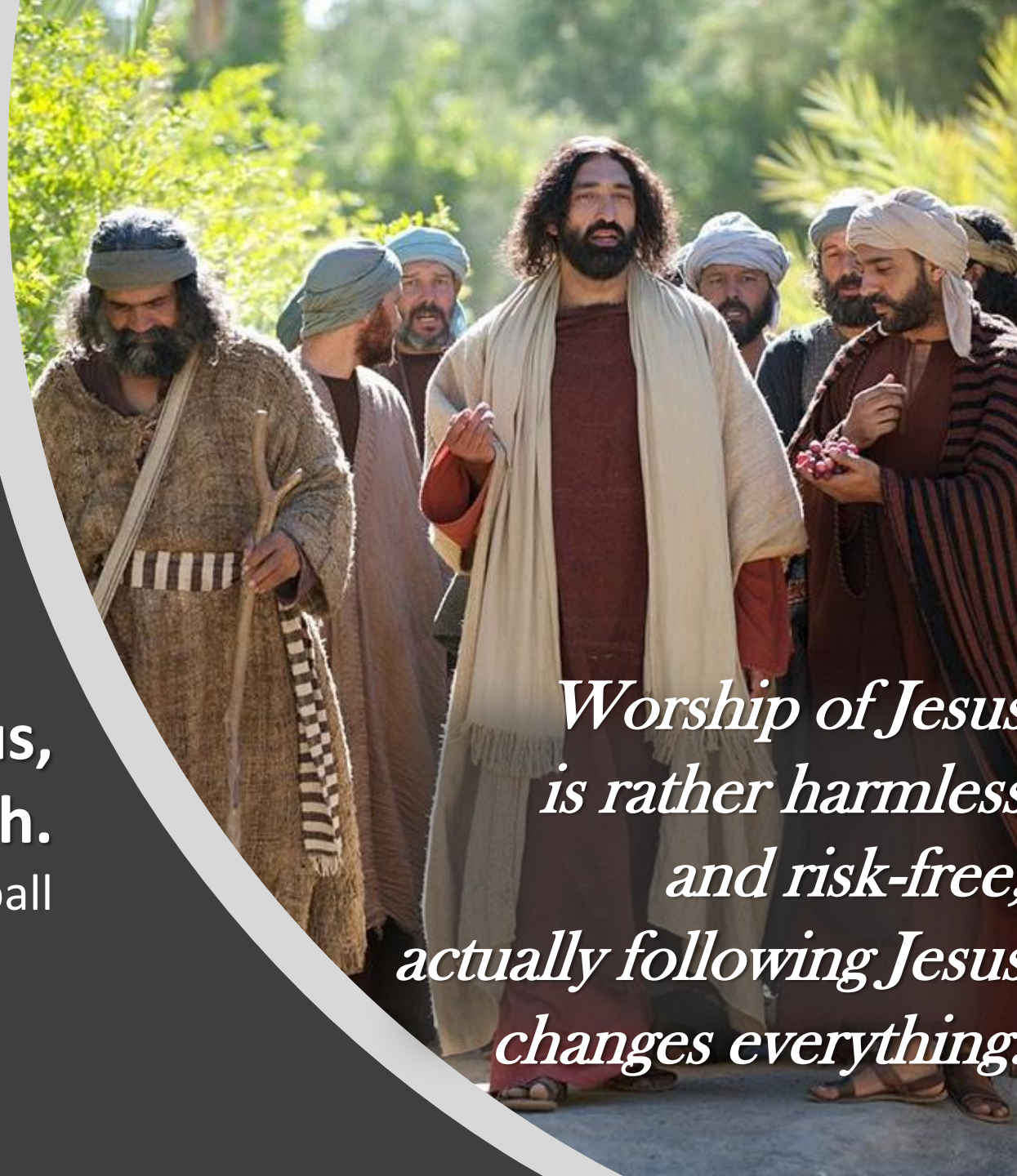
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**They like Jesus,  
they don't like the Church.**

– Dan Kimball

If it's not them, could it be us?

It it's us, what is the answer?



*Worship of Jesus  
is rather harmless  
and risk-free,  
actually following Jesus  
changes everything.*

Lent is about noticing our blindness and seeing differently. We are invited to see past our anxiety, our greed, our envy, our fear, our control.

Lent is about seeing ourselves as the sheep of this Good Shepherd, as a traveler in God's good valley, as a citizen in God's good house.

Lent is about repenting from thinking that God needs our quirks to defend God.



The Heart of Christ is offering Grace because we have received Grace.

# Trusting the **Heart of Christ** in us.

*In the last few decades, I've faced my own mortality on several occasions through cancer and a heart attack. Each time I've experienced an outpouring of love and care from others and from God. The sky and the whole world take on a nostalgic and fleeting tone.*

*God seems inside, closer than my own skin. I hope I can hear the messages: listen to your body, slow down, live in the precious now, love all that is.*

*How can I not believe in the Incarnation of God in the compassion of so many, in a pattern of discovery, waiting, and healing that all feels like mercy? Facing my death has helped me live more fully.*

*Anthropologist Angeles Arrien (1940–2014)*





In the presence of God,  
Could I wrong?

In my wrongness could  
that make me right?



**Jesus** did not come  
to change the mind of **God**  
about *humanity*,

**Jesus** came to change the mind  
of *humanity* about **God**