

Sermon Outline
Burton Memorial United Methodist Church
“Jesus changed the world through teaching, healing, love, and justice”
(Part II of “Jesus is Lord”)
May 10, 2026

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-2
Mark 1:35-39
Luke 4:16-21

Core Idea and purpose

Core theological ideas from earlier sermons in the series:

- (05/03/2026) If Jesus is truly Lord, then he ought to be big enough in our lives to be recognized as such.

Core theological idea: Jesus did not change the world through violence, force, secular power or manipulation. Jesus changed the world through teaching, healing, love, and justice. This is the example for us to follow.

Challenge/purpose: To encourage people to change the world non-violently through teaching, healing, love, and justice.

The Sermon

Ever since Cain murdered Abel, the world has been full of cruel domination and violence. Most of our history classes are nothing but stories about oppression and wars. The typical American history course begins with the European oppression of Native Americans and the enslavement of Africans for economic gain. Soon after, we learn about gaining independence through violence. We then study a series of wars from the War of 1812 through the current war with Iran. In between these wars we learn about racist segregation laws, share cropping, inhuman working conditions, racist immigration policies and other oppressive systems.

Human history seems to be organized around violent oppression and the resistance to oppression. Some of this resistance is non-violent but a whole lot of it is violent. Many people have become cynical and believe that positive societal change will only happen when people pick up their weapons and fight fire with fire. Well, that simply does not work. Fighting fire with fire only creates more fire. There must be a better way to make positive societal change. Our Savior and Lord, Jesus, provides the better way.

Jesus, the one who is fully human and fully God, came to this earth to save us from sin and proclaim justice. Jesus fulfilled this mission and made the biggest and most positive impact on the world, not through violence, force, secular power or manipulation. Jesus changed the world through teaching, healing, love, and

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justice. Let me say this again: Jesus changed the world, not through violence, force, secular power or manipulation, but through teaching, healing, love, and justice.

According to Mark 1:15, Jesus started his earthly ministry by proclaiming, “The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” Then, in Mark 1:38, Jesus said, “...Let us go...to the nearby villages—so I can **preach** there also. That is why I have come.” After that, Jesus and his Apostles traveled throughout Galilee to teach about the Kingdom of God. Many people listened to Jesus and took what he had to say to heart while many others thought he was either crazy or blasphemous.

This is the example for us to follow. We teach people about Jesus. This doesn't mean we become obnoxious and force people to listen to us. But we must be willing to tell people how Jesus changed our lives when given the opportunity. Or we regularly invite people to Sunday worship and Bible study. **[If you want, insert a personal story that could reinforce this point.]**

According to Luke 4, Jesus started his public ministry by reading Isaiah 61:1-2 in a synagogue. This passage from Isaiah says, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” After reading this passage from Isaiah, Jesus stated that he was the fulfillment of this prophecy. Proclaiming good news to the poor, freedom for prisoners, and setting the oppressed free is tantamount to proclaiming justice for poor, oppressed, and marginalized people. By becoming the son of blue-collar parents struggling under Roman oppression, God stands in solidarity with the poor, oppressed, and marginalized people of the world. Again, this is the example for us to follow. **[If you want, insert a personal story that could reinforce this point.]**

There are approximately 23 stories about Jesus healing people of blindness, deafness, paralysis, dropsy, leprosy, mutism, and other maladies. Jesus demonstrated God's love and power through healing. He never hurt anyone, not even when he cleared the temple of money-changers and sheep vendors. As disciples of Jesus, we are to bring healing to the world. **[If you want, insert a personal story that could reinforce this point.]**

Jesus, of course, loved everyone and taught his disciples to do the same. He summarized God's law with love and told his disciples to love even their enemies. **[If you want, insert a personal story that could reinforce this point.]**

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To reiterate, Jesus gives us the example of changing the world, not through violence, force, secular power or manipulation but through teaching, healing, love, and justice.

In the United Methodist tradition, we have the Three General Rules to help us live holy lives. They are: 1) Do no harm, 2) Do all the good you can, and 3) Stay in love with God through acts of piety (worship, prayer, Bible study etc...). We do not want to hurt anyone, so we refuse to use violence, force, or manipulation to get our way. We want to help people, so we do what we can to teach, heal, and love people. By staying in love with God, we receive divine power to follow the first two rules. So, if we follow these Three General Rules we will change the world through teaching, healing, love, and justice.

[If you want, insert a personal story or an example that could reinforce this point.]

Let's pray.

Outline

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