

STRONG & COURAGEOUS: “Jesus Believes In You” - Rev. Kevin Shepherd

Sermon Notes: October 19, 2025

Text: Matthew 28

Introduction

What would you do if you could eliminate all self-doubt, insecurity and fear of other's opinion? What would you do if you knew the God of the universe, who created and formed you BELIEVED IN YOU? He does!! Join us as our guest, Rev. Kevin Shepherd, unpacks this life changing truth and encourages us that God has a plan and you are a part of it!

**No premade notes this week, but here's a place for you to take yours:
(Life Group Discussion Questions on the back.)**



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

Pastor Kevin shared the story of riding the “Millenium Falcon” roller coaster and how there was a difference between knowing and “knowing.” What’s the most adventurous thing you’ve done that you later told people “You gotta try it!”

Study & Discussion:

Read Matthew 28 focussing on verses 16-20

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) Even after seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples still doubted.

- What does this tell us about the relationship between faith and doubt?
- Can you share a time when you worshipped God while still wrestling with doubt?

3) “Being a disciplined leader that makes disciplined leaders is and will always be God’s plan for your life; the rest is peripheral.”

- How does this statement reshape how you think about God’s will for your life?
- In what ways do our personal ambitions sometimes compete with God’s bigger purpose?

4) Jeremiah 17:9 — “The heart is more deceitful than all else.”

“The best plan for your life and your purpose is NOT following YOUR heart—it’s found in following GOD’s heart.”

- Why do you think “follow your heart” has become such popular advice in our culture?
- What are some practical ways to discern and follow God’s heart instead of simply trusting your feelings?

5) The Holy Spirit’s Role in Knowing God’s Plan

1 Corinthians 2:10 — *“It was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit.”*

- How have you experienced the Holy Spirit revealing God’s plan or prompting you toward a specific action?
- What practices help you stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading?

6) Moving from Recipient to Responsible

“A disciple is someone who has moved from being a recipient of the church’s mission to being responsible for the church’s mission.”

- In what areas of your faith journey have you primarily been a recipient?
- What might it look like for you to take greater responsibility in making disciples who make disciples?

PRAYER:

