

## Plot Twist

### Part 1: Things Are Not As They Seem

What are some modern movies or books that have great plot twists?

What is a “plot twist”? What sets a *plot twist* apart from any other surprise that pops up in the story line? [Answer: a good plot twist typically reframes the whole story line].

Pastor Jim said that a fundamental component leading up to every plot twist is that ***things are not as they appear to be***. Do you agree or disagree?

What are some examples of things Jesus said that imply things in this world are not as they appear to be?

(Some hints: Luke 18:10-14, Matt 26:64, John 12:25, Matt 11:11, Luke 13:24, Luke 21:5-6, Luke 9:46-48, Mark 9:34-35, Luke 23:39-43...)

Do you agree that life on this earth in many ways represents a distorted reality?

In what ways are Jesus followers participants in the greatest, real-life plot twist of all time? (Take some time on this).

READ:

***“Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There’s far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are very temporary. But the things we can’t see now will last forever.” 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (The Message)***

Why is it often good news for Jesus followers that things are not as they appear.

(When things seem hopeless, when you feel you’re all alone, when it seems evil is winning, etc...)

READ:

***“But friends, you are not in the dark, so how could you be taken off guard by any of this?” 1 Thessalonians 5:4 (The Message)***

What did Paul mean by this? (Hint: look more closely at the context)

In what ways does knowing that things are not as they seem to be affect your life - how you live? what you value? the choices you make?