SEE YOU ON THE

OTHER SIDE!

TRUTH 5

A TOUR OF HEAVEN / ISSUE 5 OF 8



When is Jesus coming back?

One Way or the Other



Nobody knows the day.
Not even me!

by Rick Melick

Last Time on the Tour



Say yes to Jesus today.

Eight stops. Eight truths to remember.

Read the panels from top to bottom. Take your time, ask questions, and enjoy the tour.



Pastor Rick: Joy and I were in the checkout line at the store. I do NOT like waiting in line.



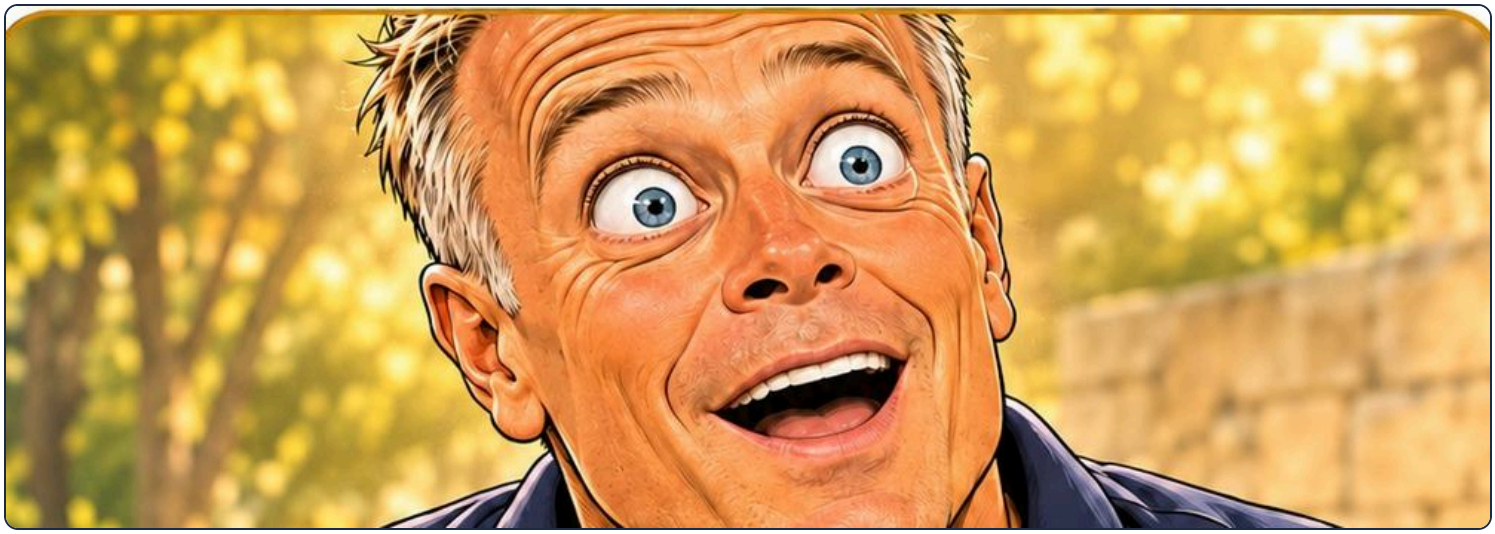
DING!
Loudspeaker: Register number five is available!



Pastor Rick: The lady in front of us didn't move. She just kept talking on her phone.
Lady: ...and then SHE said...



Pastor Rick: Finally she turned around to the whole line, kicked her leg out, and said...
Joy (acting it out): Hee hee! I'm multitasking!



Pastor Rick: Multitasking means doing two things at once. She was barely tasking!



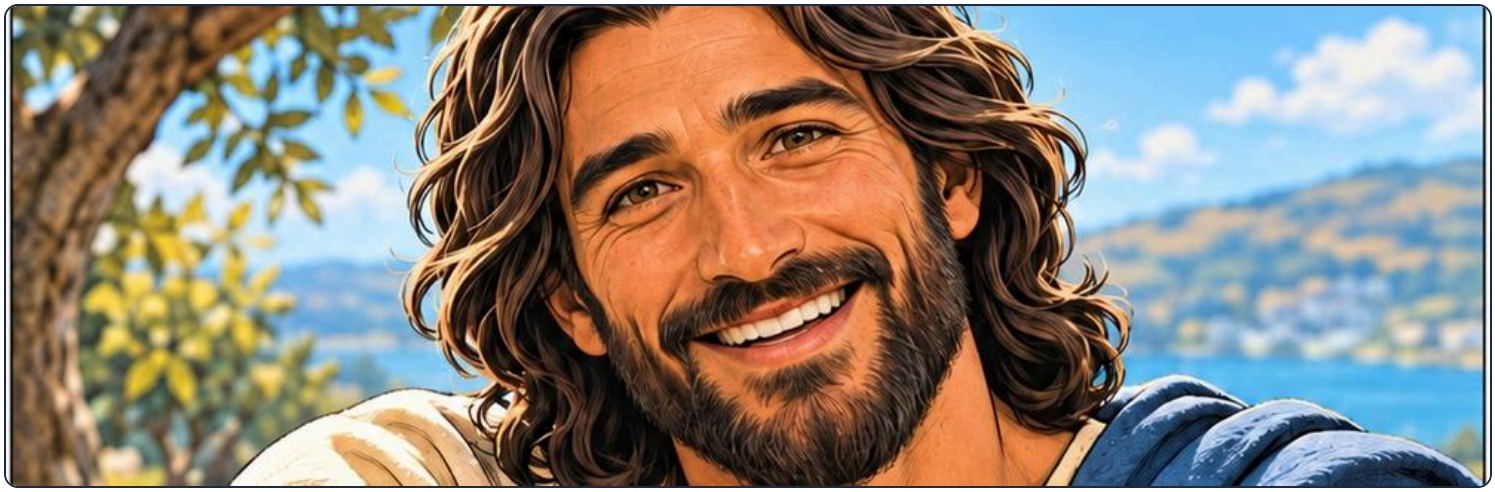
Eli: Barely tasking! I'm using that on my sister.
A Tour of Heaven, Stop 5.



Pastor Rick: Whether you're a barely-tasker or a multitasker, Jesus has an invitation for you. This stop talks about some hard things. So let's start where Jesus started.



Stop 1: Come to Me.



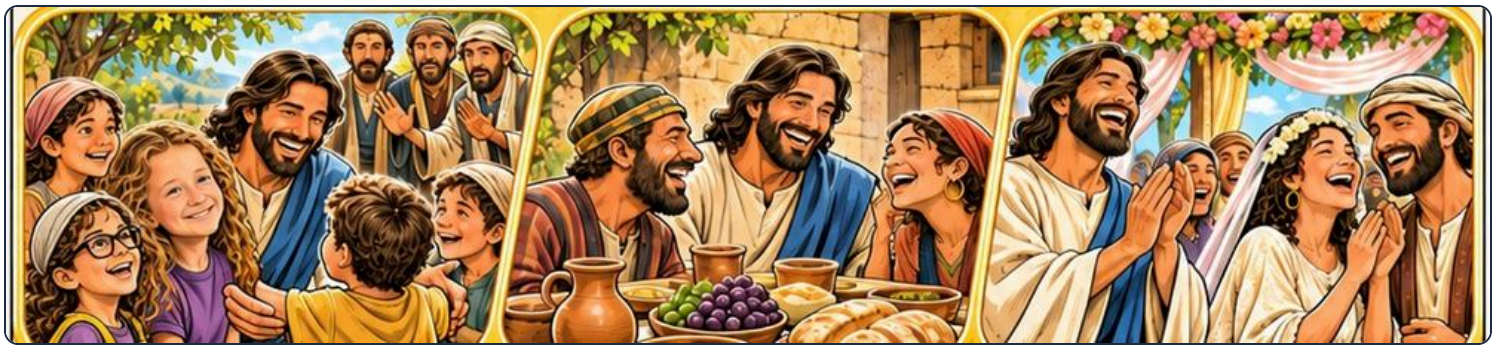
Jesus: Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28 (NIrV)



Sam: What if you're tired on the inside? Like, worried?



Pastor Rick: That's exactly who Jesus was talking to. He says, "Come to me. I'll help you carry it."



Pastor Rick: Jesus spent three years showing his arms were open. He welcomed kids. He ate with people nobody liked. He even did his very first miracle at a wedding, just to keep the party going.



Baxter: When Pastor Rick's whole family visits, there are ten people and FOUR dogs in the house. It's loud and crowded and my favorite. Jesus liked a happy crowd too!



Stop 2: Sheep and Goats.
Pastor Rick: Jesus said that one day he will come back in glory with all his angels. He'll sit on his throne as King. And all the people of the world will be gathered in front of him.



Pastor Rick: Then Jesus will separate them into two groups, the way a shepherd separates sheep from goats.



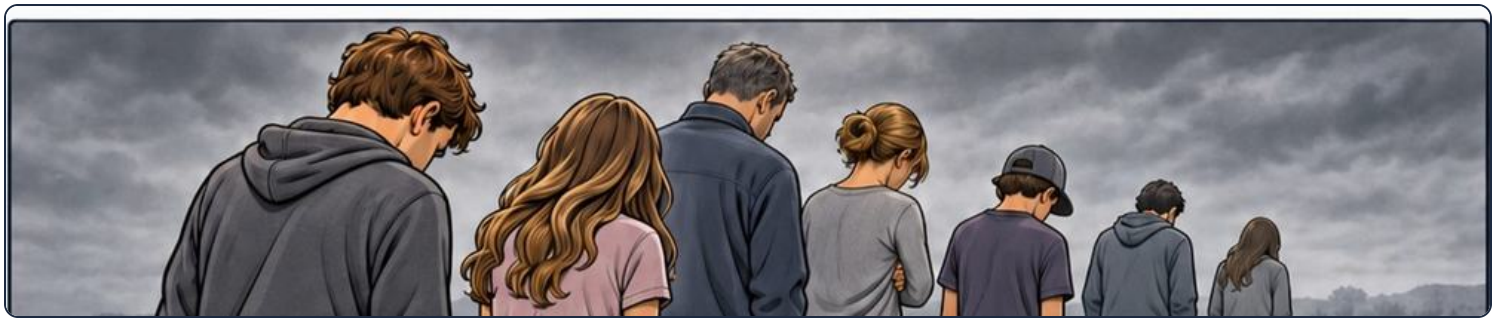
Pastor Rick: I owned goats once. Stinkiest, nastiest animals I ever had.
MEHHH!



Eli: Wait, so some people are GOATS?
Pastor Rick: Jesus isn't calling anyone a goat! He's using a picture everyone back then understood. Shepherds separated their animals all the time.



Jesus: Come!
Pastor Rick: To the people on his right, Jesus will say "Come!" They'll go into the amazing kingdom he prepared for them.



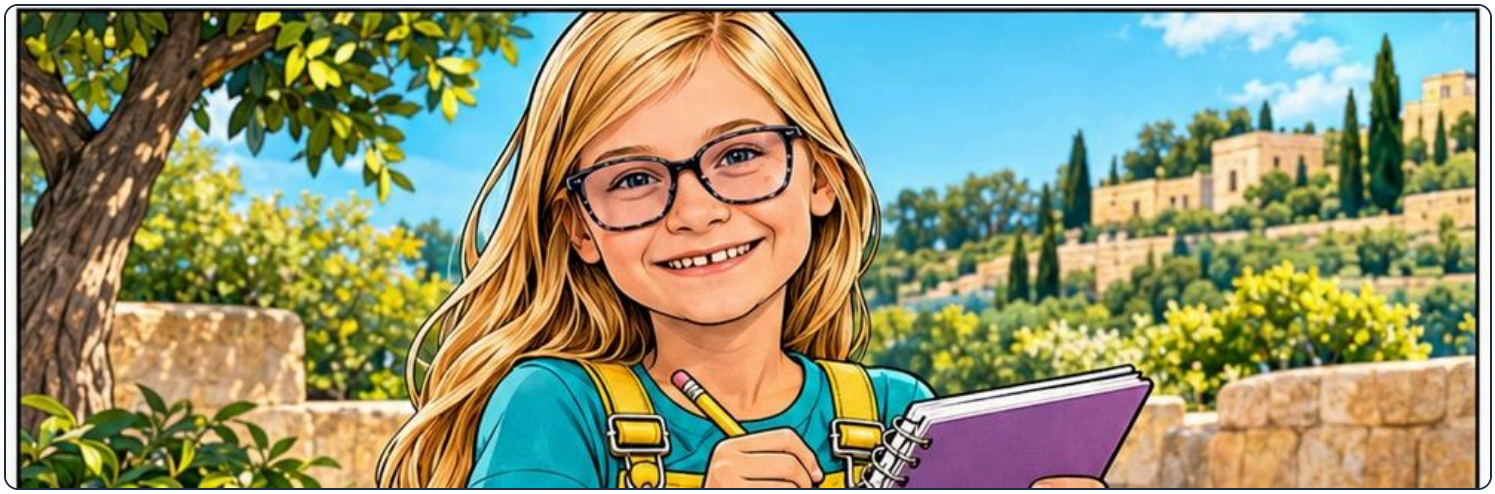
Pastor Rick: To the people on his left, he'll say "Depart," which means "go away." They'll be separated from God forever. Two groups. One way or the other.



Sam: What about babies? And little kids who are too young to choose?



Pastor Rick: I believe with all my heart that a child who dies before they're old enough to choose is safe with Jesus. He loves children.



Stop 3: How Can You Tell?

Maya: So how does Jesus decide? Is it about doing enough good stuff?



Baxter: Nope! Remember our very first stop? You can't earn it!

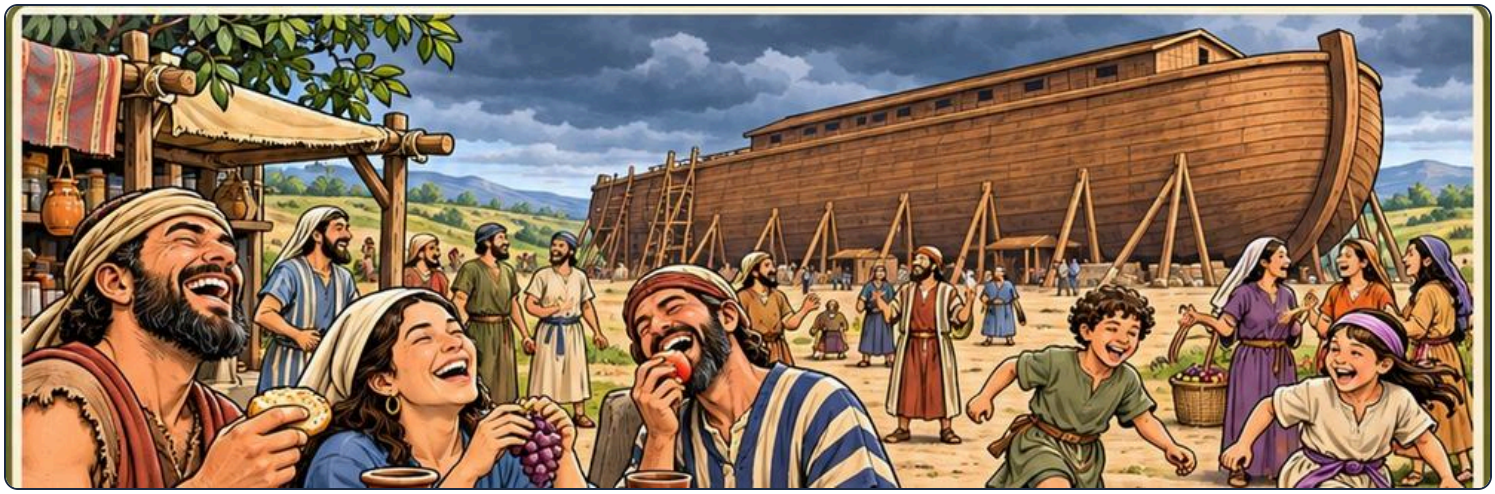


Pastor Rick: Right. What decides forever is whether you've chosen to follow Jesus. But Jesus said something interesting about the people on his right. They fed hungry people. They welcomed strangers. They visited people who were sick. And Jesus said whatever they did for people in need, they did for HIM.



Pastor Rick: When Jesus lives in your heart, your life starts to look like his.

Good deeds don't MAKE you a Christian. They SHOW that you are one.



Stop 4: Which Word Will You Hear?

Pastor Rick: Jesus said his return will be like the days of Noah. People were busy with their own stuff. They never looked up. Then the flood came.

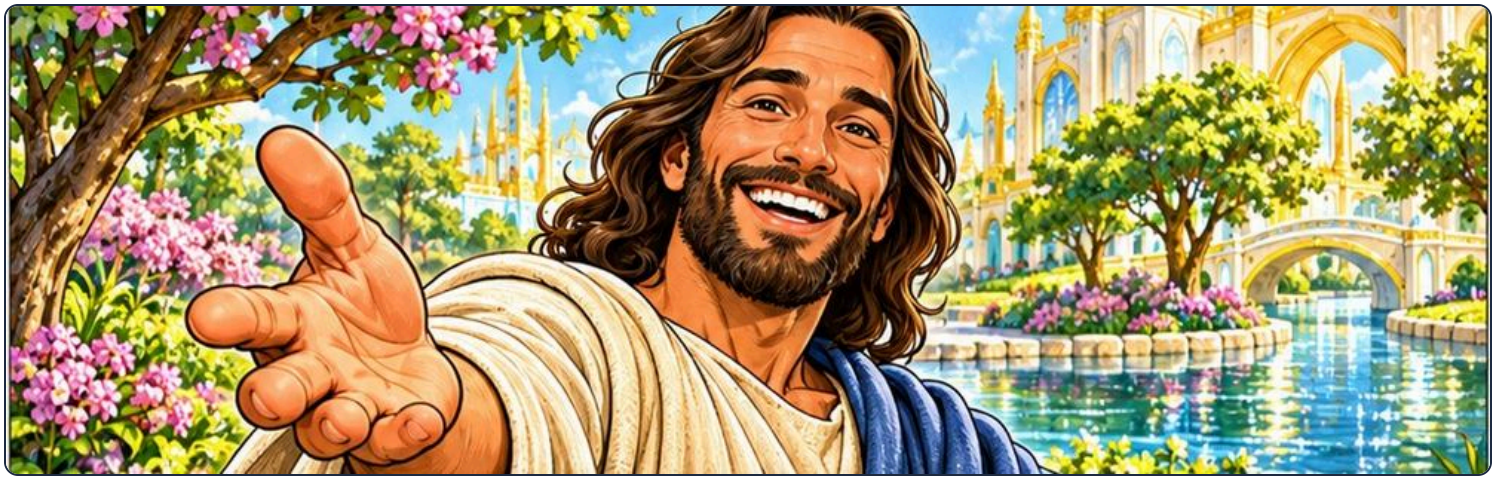


Pastor Rick: I call it living in a three-foot world: only paying attention to what's right in front of you.

Eli: Hey! ...Okay, fair.



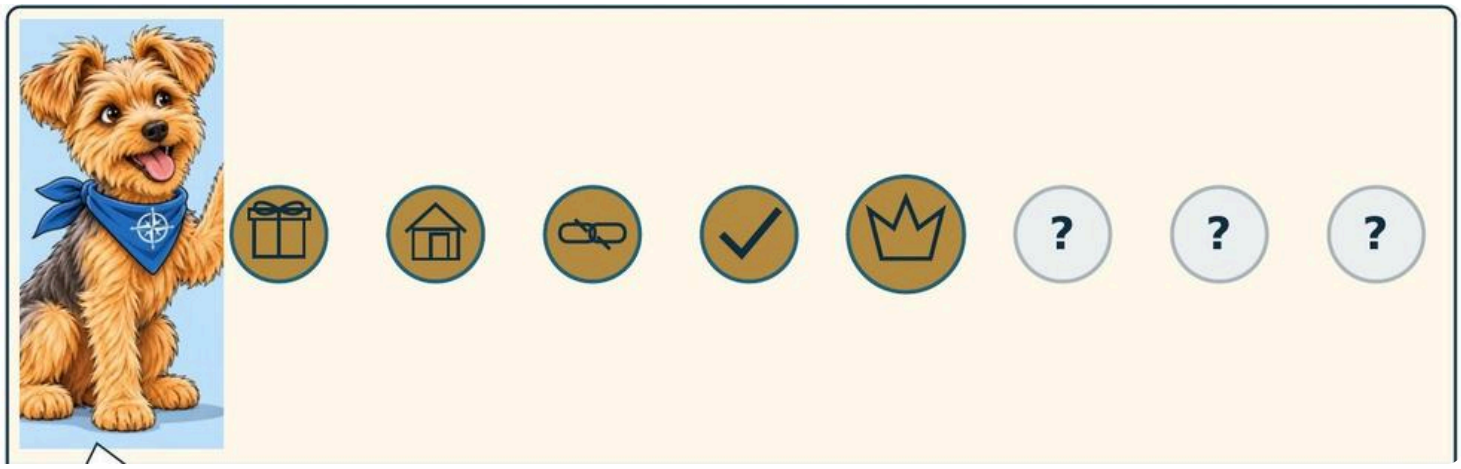
Pastor Rick: Jesus wants you to look up.



Jesus: Come to me.
Pastor Rick: When Jesus comes back, which word will you hear, "Come" or "Depart"? He's already saying "Come" to you right now.



Baxter: "Come!" is my favorite word. Usually it means a treat. When Jesus says it, it means forever with him!



REMEMBER IT! 1. Heaven is God's gift. 2. At home with Jesus. 3. Keep trusting Jesus. 4. Say yes to Jesus today. 5. Jesus will return as King. NEW!
Baxter: Say all five! Next stop: the devil gets locked up. Finally!

Your Tour Notes

Something I want to remember...

A question I want to ask...

A picture of what I learned...

Talk About It with Baxter



Who will return as King?



What would you like to ask Jesus?



Tell someone why Jesus' return gives you hope.

REMEMBER IT!



Jesus will return as King.

Say the truth in your own words. Then tell someone!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Meet Pastor Rick!

Pastor Rick Melick is a pastor in Des Moines, Iowa. He loves telling stories (especially funny ones) and helping people of all ages find out how much Jesus loves them.

Pastor Rick's Fun Facts:

He has lived all over the country: California, Washington, Texas, Tennessee, Arkansas, and now Iowa.

He is a chaplain for the Iowa State Patrol. He helps state troopers and their families when life gets hard.
He once read the Gospel of John one chapter a week, every day, with a different colored pen each day. It took him 21 weeks to finish the whole book!
He's married to Joy, his best friend. She usually gets the last laugh.

Pastor Rick's big question is: "What will matter most to me five minutes after I die?" His answer is Jesus. He hopes it's yours too.

MEET BAXTER, YOUR TOUR GUIDE!

Hi, it's me, Baxter! I'm Pastor Rick and Joy's dog, and I'm totally real.
I weigh 13 pounds. That's 13 pounds of pure tour guide!
I'm a scruffy tan terrier mix. Nobody knows exactly what breed I am. I like to keep people guessing.
I do NOT like rain. Not even a little.
I DO like rabbits. And treats. Mostly treats.
My big sister, Daisy, is a 60-pound poodle. She's WAY bigger than me, but she likes to stay home, so I do all the touring!
Thanks for taking the tour with me. See you on the other side!



See you on the other side!