

## The Story of Jesus Leading to His Resurrection

### ❖ Introduction:

- **We are about to celebrate the Death and Resurrection of Jesus**
  - Many times during this time of year, we only focus on a couple parts of the story
  - I want to step back and look briefly at the whole story if we can
- **I am just gonna hit some of the highlights of the Ministry of Jesus**
  - And how it all culminated in Him being executed on a cross
- **This will be a good thing for all of us to remember...**
  - It is so important that we step back and remember what it is that we believe.
  - Being a born again Christian is about believing on Jesus Christ...
  - **And believing on Jesus means:**
    - We believe in the nature of who He is... He is God in the flesh
    - We believe in what He said... He taught us many things
    - We believe in what He did... He came as God and lived a sinless life, was executed for our sins and rose from the grave in victory conquering death...
- **So, let's look at some of these things this morning...**

### ❖ Resurrection Morning?

- And... I would love it if all of the church throughout the whole world would call it Resurrection Sunday
  - Easter is a name given to this celebration many years ago, but also many years after the Resurrection
- **It is debatable as to why it was called Easter...**
  - Maybe it was the name of a false goddess
  - Maybe it was the name of a season
  - Whatever it was called...
    - People have used the term Easter to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus...
- **I do not believe it is wrong to call this time Easter... I just think there is something better...**
  - I do not believe it is wrong to hunt eggs or give out chocolate...
  - But, it has nothing to do with the Resurrection of Jesus...
- **I believe it would be a great witness to the World...**
  - If every Christian everywhere... began referring to this time of year.
  - As resurrection Sunday...
- **Why? Because it is a Witness... and it offers clarity about what we are doing....**
  - This is what we are celebrating.... Not nice dresses, family, candy and eggs...
  - Rather... We are remembering the day our Lord laid down His life for us...
- **Why? The Term Easter is so engrained into our culture... that I find it hard to not say Easter...**
  - And in our culture Easter is losing its meaning... it really is...
  - Children are given candy and eggs all over our country...
  - People come together with families all over our country
  - But... many times Jesus is not mentioned...
- **So... here is a call to you... Call this time of year a Celebration of the Resurrection!**
  - Not because you think it is pagan to say Easter...
  - But, because it better articulates to the world, Who we are Celebrating...

## ❖ How Did we get to the Resurrection

- Well... God had a plan before He even created the Earth
  - He would send His Son to die...
- **I want you to stop and consider that for a moment...**
  - This was planned out before God ever made the world...
  - So, God created a beautiful world that was good, knowing:
    - Not that it had potential to fall...
    - Rather... knowing that it would fall...
- **Everything God did throughout human history up until the cross**
  - Was done in preparation for the cross...
- **After Adam and Eve sinned... we see sacrifice of an animal for their sins...**
  - All of these deaths of animals sacrificed we foreshadows of the coming of Jesus
- **In John 1:1**
  - We learn that Jesus is called the Word... and that He is God and with God
  - In verse 1:14 we learn that this Word... this Jesus... became a man and lived with us...
- **Within what we call God, there are three distinct persons...**
  - Now, we do not have to fully understand the essence of how they are one
  - While also being three distinct persons...
  - But the Bible teaches there is only one God... yet it ascribes Deity to a Father, to Jesus and to the Spirit
    - And we all three working in distinct ways...
- **Many people have a problem with this... they think it is confusing and hard to grasp logically...**
  - This does not bother me one bit... I may sometimes find it hard to explain...
  - But I have no problem with God being one and three at the same time...
  - He is God... He can be however He wants to be...
  - And I assume... God will always be difficult for anything that is not God.... To understand...
  - He is God!
- **Jesus comes from God as God to become a man...**
  - To become the God-Man... to take on the nature of both...
  - He never lost His deity... We are reminded of this in Colossians by Paul
    - **Colossians 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,**
- **Then, we immediately get an idea of His purpose in coming:**
  - John the Baptist was sent to begin preparing the way for Jesus
  - He came preaching repentance... turning people away from sin and back to God...
  - When John the Baptist saw Jesus, He said:
    - **John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"**

## ❖ Jesus then calls 12 disciples...

- 1 that would be a part in betraying Him
- And 11 that would take the story of Jesus coming, living, dying and raising...

- To the ends of the earth...
- ❖ **Jesus teaches these disciples...**
  - He shows them God, He teaches them about God
  - He demonstrated God's love for man to them...
- ❖ **Jesus teaches in Parables...**
  - He teaches about the kingdom of God...
  - He tells them of two types of people...
  - People that will follow God, and those who will reject God
- ❖ **Jesus declares who He is to the disciples, and those that would listen**
  - **He uses 8 I AM statements in the book of John...**
    - He used the term other times as well... but these stand out...
  - **Each time, there would be people that would object to this...**
  - **I Am is the name for God in the old testament...**
    - This is the name God gave of Himself to Moses
    - Moses was called to lead the people of Israel out of slavery to the Egyptians...
    - He asked God... who should I tell them sent me...
    - God calls Himself "I AM" which is His name "Yahweh"
  - **So, Jesus comes along and says "I, I AM" ...this was not overlooked... they knew what He was saying**
    - John 6: 35, 48 I am the bread of life
    - John 8: 12, 9:5 I am the light of the world
    - John 8: 58 Before Abraham was, I am
    - John 10:9 I am the door
    - John 10:11 I am the good shepherd
    - John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life
    - John 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life
    - John 15:1 I am the true vine
  - **You have to understand... the Jewish culture understood Him to be making claims...**
    - That He is God when He said these things...
    - This would be the legal grounds they would use to crucify Him
  - **So, Jesus continues to teach His disciples... to do miracles, to reach out and heal the broken**
    - He serves for almost three years before His time came...
- ❖ **Finally we reach what we call Palm Sunday – John 12 – A week before His resurrection**
  - Christ comes into Jerusalem amongst the praise of many people
    - He knows so much of it is false
  - But... We see Him pictured as the conquering King returning.
    - They even praised Him as such...
- ❖ **We See Him Celebrate the last Supper**
- ❖ **He washes the disciples feet – John 13**
  - He shows that He came to serve them
  - He gives us the great example of how to serve.
  - **He gets to Peter, and Peter says no..**

- Jesus says, then you have no part in me
- He says, then my whole body too
- Jesus says... Just your feet...you are already clean
- John 13:12-17 <sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
- **Right after this He speaks of one to betray Him**
  - They did not know who it was.
  - He says, whoever dips bread with me, and it was Judas...
  - He tells Him to go quickly and do what He has to do...
  - No one suspected it to be Judas...
  - But He leaves, and we do not see him again until his kiss of betrayal
- **He gives them their new commandment**
  - To love as I have loved
  - John 13:34-35 <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
    - ◆ Although they already knew they were to love...
    - ◆ This is significant because never has anyone ever been shown how to love.
    - ◆ And Jesus had shown them fully
- ❖ **He Foretells Peter's denial**
  - Peter promises He would never do such a thing.
  - **Promises he would even die for Christ...**
    - And He does die
    - But His 1<sup>st</sup> promise was empty
  - **How often do we make empty promises to God...?**
    - They should break our hearts.
- ❖ **He Comforts His disciples.**
  - John 14:1-3 <sup>1</sup> “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
    - They still did not understand that He had to die. So He comforts them beforehand...
    - They do not know what is coming for them,,...but Jesus does.
    - And He is bearing it on His own
  - **He says He is the way the truth and the life**
  - **This is where Philip asks to see the Father....**
    - Jesus says... have I Been with you this long and you not know me
- ❖ **Tells them He will send the comforter**

- The Holy Spirit
  - John 14:15-18 <sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
- **He then tells them to be prepared to be hated...**
  - Prepare for persecution because it is coming
  - But you will have the Spirit’s help
- ❖ **He continues to prepare them for His departure**
  - He says He did not say all these things to them before because they could not bear it
  - And now has more to tell them, but they cannot bear it yet
  - **But the Holy Spirit will come and help them**
    - How often do we want to know things, but God does not reveal it...so often I think it is because we can not bear it... we do not know what to do.
- ❖ **These guys were Afraid! But, He assures them**
  - John 16:20-22 <sup>20</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. <sup>21</sup> When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.
- ❖ **Then He prays for them (I love this cause He prays for us also) just a portion**
  - John 17:20-26 <sup>20</sup> “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”
- ❖ **Then we see Him in the garden...**
  - Praying with sweat drops of blood
  - Telling the disciples to pray that they do not fall into temptation...
  - Yet they sleep.
  - And if they had prayed more, they may have been strong enough when the time came.
  - How often do we slack in our prayers, and temptation befalls us.
    - Maybe not even due to sleep, but negligence or involved in too much stuff
    - Let us pray constantly... If you want to win against Sin... You must stay Awake!
- ❖ **Then We See The Betrayal**
  - By a kiss
  - Peter cuts an ear off

- Jesus goes willingly
- ❖ **Before the high priest**
  - They slap Him around
  - Lie about Him
- ❖ **Peter denies Him**
  - And he weeps bitterly
  - A response of repentance
  - Our response should be such
- ❖ **Take Him to Pilate**
  - Jesus says His kingdom is not of this world
  - He shows Pilate that Pilate really has no control over Him
  - He lays down His life willingly
- ❖ **No Fault found in Him**
  - Pilate washes His hands of Him
  - Tries to set Him free
  - But the Jews want Barabbas... a criminal...
  - The same crowd that praised, now yells crucify Him
- ❖ **Led to be Killed**
  - Scourged with lashes
  - Beaten terribly
  - Mocked
  - Made to carry His cross
  - Couldn't make it
  - Had to have help
- ❖ **Put on the Cross**
  - Mocked by a thief, believed by another...
  - Finally He gives up His Spirit, and yells it is finished.
  - The earth trembles the sky rumbles
  - They pierce His side,
  - Even the centurion then believes in who He is.
- ❖ **They take Him down**
  - Wrap Him in the grave clothes...
- ❖ **They go to His tomb on Sunday morning...early....**
  - They still did not understand that He must rise from the grave
  - He is not there...
  - Mary is the first to see Him...
  - She tells peter and john, they run to the tomb.
    - Matthew 28:1-7 <sup>1</sup> Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know

that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”

❖ **He conquers death**

- It could not hold Him
- He went before us, and took our pain on His shoulders...
- He bore the brunt of our penalty.

❖ **So here we stand today...**

- Able to worship our Savior Jesus Christ for what He did for us
- Because He is God
- And He has given us a new life
- We have been born of the Spirit...

❖ **So today I encourage all of you to think....**

- Think of what he went through
- Think of what He accomplished
- Think of what we have been given
- And think of what we have in store for us...

❖ **This World Around Us, does not have what we have...**

- But they need it... The world lies in darkness... and we have the light...
- Reset your life with Jesus... get back to the basics...
- Get back to where you started... remember what Jesus has done...
- We have been given the greatest gift... so great... that there are no Words to describe it
- God has not left us without proof... The Spirit lives within us showing us the truth...
- And, historically the proof is overwhelming... Jesus is God... He is the God who came and died
- **So that we may have life... you have this message... this Gospel Story...**
  - And you can share it with anyone... that they may believe...

❖ **Invitation:**

- **Return to your first Love...**
- **Take His message to the World**