

Lessons for Easter

The Betrayal and Trial of Jesus

Scripture: John 13:1-35; Matthew 26:30-56; Luke 23:1-25; John 19:1-15

Memory Verse: Matthew 26:41

INTRODUCTION: At the beginning of the last week in the life of Jesus here on earth, He had been received into Jerusalem as a conquering King as He rode into town on the back of a donkey. Now, it is Tuesday night and Jesus knows that His time has come, he would be betrayed by one of His own disciples this night - Judas Iscariot.

I THE LAST SUPPER (John 13:1-35)

Jesus now comes to the last supper that He would eat with His disciples before He was crucified. A certain man had prepared this supper for Jesus and His disciples in an upper room. There, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper with His disciples. The unleavened bread(like a cracker) and the grape juice are symbols of Jesus' body that was broken and His blood that was shed on the cross. We still observe the Lord's Supper today in our church for all who are saved, baptized and members of our church. (I Corinthians 11:23-25)

II THE PRAYER IN THE GARDEN (Matthew 26:30-46)

After Jesus and the disciples finished the last supper and sang an hymn, they went out of the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. There Jesus began to be very sad and prayed in great agony. He told the disciples to pray also with Him, but they were very tired and soon fell asleep. (Do you ever fall asleep in church or while you are praying?)

III THE BETRAYAL BY JUDAS (Matthew 26:47-56)

Jesus had just finished praying when, suddenly, there came a huge mob of people carrying swords and stones and being led by one of Jesus' own disciples - Judas Iscariot! Judas had made a deal with the chief priests and scribes of Israel to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. When Judas saw Jesus in the garden, he came up to Him and kissed Him to show the mob which One was Jesus. The mob then grabbed Jesus and carried Him away to the palace of the high priest for His trial.

IV THE TRIAL OF JESUS (Luke 23:1-215)

The chief priests and scribes of the Jews slapped Jesus while He was blind-folded and made fun of Him. They had their own trial for Jesus and pronounced Him worthy to die though He had never done anything wrong. But, the Jews did not have the authority to carry out the death penalty. For this penalty, they had to go to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Pilate questioned Jesus but found that Jesus had done nothing wrong. Pilate pronounced Jesus "*not guilty*" by saying (v 4) - ". . . *I find no fault in this man.*" The Jews cried out all the more "CRUCIFY HIM, CRUCIFY HIM"

V THE BEATING OF JESUS (John 19:1-15)

Pilate wanted to release Jesus but he was afraid of the people more than he feared God and wanted to make the people happy, so he gave them a choice. They could either have Barabbas, who was a murderer, set free, or they could choose to set Jesus free. The people chose Barabbas and cried out for Jesus to be crucified. Pilate again tried to appease the people by first scourging Jesus with a whip rather than crucify Him. This whip was called a "*cat of nine tails*" and had pieces of glass, bone, and hard sharp objects tied up and down each strap. This beating tore into the flesh of Jesus to where He was not even recognized as a man. But this only made the people cry out more, "*Crucify Him, Crucify Him.*" so, after making a crown of thorns and pushing it down on Jesus' head, Pilate told the people to take Jesus and crucify Him.

CONCLUSION: Pilate knew what the right thing to do was, but he still chose to do the wrong thing and crucify Jesus. There may be times in your life when the crowd wants you to do something wrong. You must take a stand against wrong and do what is right. When you do, Jesus will be right there to help you.

Lessons for Easter

The Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus

Scripture: John 19:16-42; John 20:1-18; Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:8-14

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:6

INTRODUCTION: The day that Jesus was crucified on the cross of Calvary must have been a glad day for Satan. He must have really rejoiced thinking that he had finally won the victory over the son of God in Jesus' death. It was a dark day for all of Jesus' disciples and followers. It would have remained the darkest day in all the world except for what happened three days and nights later - JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD!

I THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS (John 19:16-30)

The Lord Jesus had to carry a big wooden cross all the way up the hill called Mt. Calvary. Remember, He had been up all night long at His trial and had been terribly beaten. When He reached the top, He laid down on the cross and the big Roman soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. They did not have to wrestle Him down to do this for Jesus willingly laid down His life for us. There the Lord Jesus hung for six hours until finally He cried out "*It is finished*", and having said this, Jesus bowed His head and gave up the ghost.

II THE BURIAL OF JESUS (John 19:31-42)

After Jesus had died upon the cross, two men went and asked Pilate for Jesus' body so that they might bury Him. Both of these men were very rich. Their names were Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus. They wrapped Jesus' body up in linen and spices and buried Him in Joseph's tomb and rolled a huge stone upon the door of the tomb.

III THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS (John 20:1-18)

Three days had gone by since Jesus had died. The men had hurriedly buried the Lord and now, on the first day of the week (Sunday), the ladies came to the tomb to further anoint Jesus' body for the burial. As they walked along early that morning, before the sun came up, they talked and wondered who might roll the stone away from the tomb door. When they arrived at the tomb, they were surprised to see the stone already rolled away and an angel sitting on it in bright clothing. The ladies were afraid, but the angel said to them (Matthew 28:5-6) ". . . *Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*" The ladies saw and ran to go and tell the

disciples that Jesus had risen! After the disciples came to see the tomb, they went on back to their homes, but Mary Magdalene lingered at the tomb. She was crying and she heard Someone say, "Woman, why weepst thou?" She thought he was the gardener and told Him that she thought someone had stolen the body of Jesus. Just then Jesus said, "Mary." As soon as He said her name Mary knew that this was JESUS, her Saviour Who had risen from the dead!

IV THE ASCENSION OF JESUS (Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:8-14)

Jesus appeared many times to his disciples and followers after He rose from the dead. For forty days He remained on the earth to strengthen and encourage them. Then, the time came for Jesus to return to the Father in Heaven. He took His disciples upon the Mt. of Olives and gave them His last command. This command is called the *Great Commission* which instructed them to go into all the world and preach, baptize, and teach those who got saved. (Matthew 28:18-20) Having said these words, the Lord Jesus blessed the disciples and began to rise up from the ground. Higher and higher He rose into the blue sky until a cloud received Him out of their sight. While they stared up at the sky, two men (angels) stood by them and said (Acts 1:11) ". . .Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into the heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

CONCLUSION: Jesus willingly died on the cross. The REASON He died on the cross was to give us a home in Heaven with Him! If you will accept Jesus' gift of salvation and ask Him into your heart and forgive you of your sin, you, too, will have that home in Heaven FOREVER! Because Jesus died, was buried and rose up from the dead, we can live forever with Him. That is the exciting part of the Easter story. Jesus did not stay dead like all other great leaders in history. NO! He rose up from the grave and now lives in Heaven listening and answering our prayers and guiding us everyday. One day, Jesus WILL come back for those who are saved and still living on the earth, just as the angel said. Are YOU ready to meet Him? Do YOU have a home in Heaven?

Lessons for Easter

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

INTRODUCTION: The resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian's faith. It is one of the best documented and authenticated facts in all of human history. Jesus' virgin birth, His sinless life, His many miracles, His vicarious death on the cross, and all of His promises would have all been in vain had it not been for His resurrection. (Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-14; John 20:1-18)

RESURRECTION - "*the act of being raised from the dead with an incorruptible body to never die again*"

NOTE: Jesus Christ is the only One Who has resurrected so far. Many people in the Bible were raised from the dead, but one day they finally died. (Examples: Lazarus, Tabitha) This was a *restoration* to life. This is different from a *resurrection* for in the resurrection a person is raised with a brand new body never to die again.

NOTE: Notice the events of the final week of Christ's public ministry:

- 1) SUNDAY - The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (John 12:12-16 - The Passover was celebrated on Friday of that week for Jesus came to Bethany on Saturday which was "*six days before the Passover. . .*" (John 12:1)
- 2) MONDAY - Jesus cleansed the Temple (Mark 11:12-19)
- 3) TUESDAY - The Lord's Supper was instituted in the upper room and Jesus was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:1-20)
- 4) WEDNESDAY - Jesus was crucified (John 19:16-30) - Thursday was the preparation day to get ready for the Passover that was on Friday. Since Friday was the Passover, it was a special Sabbath Day. (Mark 15:42; John 19:31, 42)
- 5) THURSDAY - SATURDAY - Jesus was buried for three days and nights. (Matthew 27:62-66; 12:40)
- 6) SUNDAY - Jesus was resurrected from the dead. (Matthew 28:1-6) The Jews started their day at 6:00 in the evening. They did this because God said ". . .*the evening and the morning were the first day.*" (Genesis 1:5) Thus, Jesus actually rose in the night for when the ladies arrived in the darkness of the morning, He had already risen from the dead. (John 20:1)

I THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the third part of the Gospel story (I Corinthians 15:1-4)
- B. Without the resurrection there would be no Gospel (I Corinthians 15:12-20)
- C. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single sign of the deity of Christ (Matthew 12:38-40)
- D. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the outstanding difference between Christianity and all other religions. Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, Zoroaster, Stalin and all others whom men worship are dead, and their bodies are still in the grave, BUT JESUS CHRIST AROSE AND IS ALIVE FOREVERMORE. (Revelation 1:18; I Peter 1:3)
- E. Without the resurrection, baptism would not be complete (Romans 6:4-5; Colossians 2:12)

II THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. The fact of Christ's resurrection is found in the Bible, God's Holy Word (Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6; John 20:1-10; Acts 2:31; II Timothy 2:8; I Peter 1:3)
- B. The fact that Christ's resurrection is recorded by secular historians in the first century
Flavius Josephus (born 37-38 AD) Book XVIII, chapter 3, section 3 - ". . . for He (Jesus) appeared to them alive again in the third day as the divine prophets had foretold. . ."

III THE EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

God wanted there to be no doubt that Jesus had risen from the dead so He gave many infallible proofs of His resurrection. (Acts 1:3)

- A. The empty tomb is evidence that Christ rose from the dead (Luke 24:1-3; John 20:6-8)
- B. The appearances of Christ after He had risen from the dead are evidences of His resurrection: