

Announcements:

1. Egg hunt after church
2. Family Movie Night on April 10 @ 6:30pm
3. Men's Retreat on May 14-16 (flyer in bulletin)
4. Family Campout in June 4-6 @ Remote Outpost Campground

...this changes everything!

He is Risen!

Mark 10:32-34

He is Risen!...and this changes everything!! Today we celebrate something that has an effect upon all of creation. When Jesus was going into Jerusalem, the enemies of Jesus, those that were looking to kill Him, told Him to tell the people not to shout, "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!" But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!" He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!" All of creation felt the weight of sin and waited for the One that would change everything.

When Adam and Eve sinned at the beginning of creation, from that point forward the effect of sin fell upon all that was created. Everything from the animals, to the sun, the moon, the sea, the mountains, to the rocks. Before that there was no fear of animal attacks; there was no fear of human attacks. The sun, the moon, the oceans and all that were in them were not decaying. There was no curse upon it, but sin changed that. Creation would now have an expiration date. There would be problems. Mankind went from having life to an "appointment with death" [Hebrews 9:27]. Mankind now had a curse upon them that is part of our physical and spiritual DNA. We would feel sorrow, shame, guilt, rejection, confusion, fighting, dissatisfaction, unhappiness...and worse yet, disconnected from God and all the blessings He pours out upon His creation. And without someone or something stepping in and fixing the problem between creation and God, it would suffer the wrath of God.

The people shouting when Jesus came into Jerusalem had it right, He was the One who would come in the name of the Lord. There are over 300 prophecies spoken throughout the Old Testament and Jesus would be the one to fulfill them. Jesus was the Anointed One by God who would come

to save the world, to bring salvation. He is the one the prophets had spoken about. His name means “He saves”. Peter in his letter says, “This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you.” The prophets looked forward to a time when the Messiah would come to save them. Luke 19:10 says, “For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” If you have not received His forgiveness and chosen to follow Him in your life, then you are lost. If you have confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior with your mouth and believed it in your heart this changes everything for you and there is no condemnation for you.

All of creation is looking for salvation. All of humanity understands we live in a world that is broken. Watch the news. Listen to families fight and split. Sit back and watch people constantly trying to fill the voids in their life with things that don't bring satisfaction. The government makes new laws hoping to make us safer, and we still have problems. The more we try and fix things, other issues pop up. It isn't a question of brokenness, it's a question of what will save us. It's engrained in us so much so that sometimes, maybe even often, we don't realize how much we look for something to save us...and until we find that 'one thing' nothing will change. And, that is why this day is so important, so powerful, so celebratory...because Jesus is the 'one thing' we are looking for that changes everything.

Our passage this morning is Mark 10:32-34. We have been going through a study of Mark's gospel letter to the early church and to us. Mark plainly says what his letter is about at the very onset of his letter. He said, “This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God”. We have seen through his gospel letter the power of Jesus over the spiritual realm, we have seen Him heal, cast out demons, do miracles, speak with such great authority and truth people were amazed. And now we come to a saying in chapter 10 that the disciples, according to Luke's gospel letter, did not understand at this point of their time with Jesus.

Let's read Mark 10:32-34.

This is the third time that Jesus has predicted His death. Each time He gives the disciples a little more information.

The first time in Mark 8, He says “that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead.” If you remember, Peter had just called Jesus the Messiah, the one they were looking for to come and make things right, to give them power and prestige as a nation and people once again. So, Peter reprimanded Jesus for saying He would die. Peter was looking at things from a worldly standpoint at not realizing their spiritual need.

Jesus turns to Peter and reprimands Him saying, “Get away from me, Satan!” ... “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.” Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?” Jesus asks a great, and yet haunting question, “Is anything worth more than your soul?” Is the stuff of this world; are the relationships of this world; is your pride, safety, self-worth, are those more valuable than your soul?

The second time Jesus announces His coming death is in chapter 9 of Mark. Jesus gives more information as to what is going to happen. He says, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead.”

The first time, Jesus just says “the Son of Man must suffer.” The second time He says He will be betrayed. Judas betrays Jesus. Judas was one of the 12 disciples that traveled with Jesus for 3 years. Judas was greedy. Judas let money become his god of choice. He sold out to the religious group and gave over Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. You and I are no different than Judas. We sell out, we give into our god of choice. What is your ‘god of choice’? Is it lust of eyes, that desire to possess things that have visual appeal that by having those things will make you feel valuable, powerful, or important. Is your ‘god of choice’ lust of the flesh: inappropriate relationships, sexual gratification outside of marriage, addictions...those things that satisfy those cravings your body has that are not appropriate at this time or maybe never appropriate. Maybe your ‘god of choice’ is what 1 John 5 calls the ‘pride of life.’ That false sense of security or well-being that comes with having enough money or smart

enough or resourceful enough so that you can fix your own problems and you don't have to trust anyone or need God.

The third time Jesus gives way more information and becomes even more specific. He says, "we're going up to Jerusalem."

JERUSALEM

Jerusalem was the center of religious activity for the Jews. This was the city of David, also known as the city of God, and also Zion. It is the highest point of the central tableland of Israel and has two rivenes surrounding it providing natural defense. When you went to Jerusalem, you went 'up' to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a hot spot in the world, but has an everlasting covenant with God. Many will fight against it and seek to conquer it, but when Christ comes back it will be His. Just outside the city gates the Messiah was to be crucified, and just outside on the Mount of Olives where Jesus came into the Jerusalem the first time at what is called the Triumphal entry that we celebrated last Sunday, He will come this way when He comes back during His second coming to reign forever as judge and king. Jerusalem means "possession of peace." That peace will not come until Jesus comes back.

SON OF MAN

Jesus also said "the Son of Man will be betrayed or handed over". This title, Son of Man, is the title Jesus uses the most for Himself. Why is it significant? Jesus was God come in the flesh by way of the virgin Mary. He had a human nature. He suffered human death. He was tempted as humans are tempted. He felt hunger, thirst, sorrow, pain, and more. As Hebrews tells us, He can understand.

It also is a title of humility and servanthood. Jesus left heaven's glory and took on human flesh. He was born in a manger, "despised and rejected by mankind" [Isaiah 53:3], spent time with sinners, walked amongst the poor and lonely, and then suffered at the hands of men. He intentionally lowered Himself as Philippians chapter 2 says by giving up being King of Heaven and coming to earth being the Son of Man, taking on the form of a lowly servant.

The title "The Son of Man" was also a title of deity. Colossians 2:9 says, "For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body." Jesus was able to forgive sins. No one but God can do that. During the trial of Jesus

before the high priest the night before He was crucified, Jesus called Himself 'The Son of Man' and that ended the trial right then and there. In their eyes Jesus had committed the most heinous act there is to commit, He had blasphemed...He called Himself God. Jesus is God.

Lastly, this title, "The Son of Man" was a prophetic title spoken about the Messiah found in Daniel chapter 7 over 500 years before Jesus time on earth. The high priest knew this and that is what made him so upset. Daniel said, "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days [God] and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." Daniel saw glory, worship, and an everlasting kingdom given to the Messiah and Jesus applied this to Himself.

HE WILL SUFFER MANY THINGS

The next thing Jesus said in our passage is that they will sentence Him to death and hand him over to the Romans. The Jewish nation at this time was under the sovereign power of Rome. They were given many abilities to be a nation and do as they wanted, but it had to fit within the Roman government and not conflict with worshipping Caesar. The Jewish ruling authorities could sentence people, but they didn't have the right to execute Him so they had to hand Him over to the Roman government.

Interestingly enough, the ruling religious groups of Israel were buddy-buddy with Rome, their enemy, the people they wanted their Messiah to conquer and put underneath them. They did not see Jesus as their Messiah because He did not fit their pride-filled notion of a Messiah. Their hatred and anger for Jesus caused them to fall in line with their enemy. They wanted a controllable God, one that would do for them according to their whims and wants. Jesus is not a God that bows to men...praise God! He never changes. He always does the right thing. He only does what is part of His character. He doesn't lie. He only does what is good and what brings God the glory. He is always filled with truth and speaks the truth, because He is the Truth. This does not make Jesus arrogant, because there is no comparison or some possible other way. He is the ONLY way, which makes Him the only right choice. All other 'ways' lead to destruction, suffering, heart-ache.

There is a great question out there: “Who killed Jesus?” The Jewish religious leaders sentenced Him, the Jewish people who praised His arrival into Jerusalem yelled, “Crucify Him”, and the Roman government executed Him. However, it was the sin of mankind that put Him on the cross. Isaiah 53:4-5 says, “And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.’ 1 Peter 2:24 says, “He [Jesus] personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds you are healed.” We all had a part of putting Jesus on the cross. To some degree, we all had a part in killing the Son of God. Romans 4:25 says, “He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.”

Jesus prophetically called out what would happen to Him. They mocked Him. During the illegal trial of Jesus, the religious leaders covered His head and hit Him saying, “prophecy who hit you”. The Roman guards put a scarlet robe and twisted a crown of thorns placing it on His head then bowling down to Him in mockery saying, “Hail, King of the Jews.” They spat on Him. They beat Him in the head with a reed. They beat Him within an inch of His life. They led Him up to His crucifixion making Him carry His own cross, profusely bleeding, barely standing from exhaustion, weakened by blood loss, wearied and suffering from a back torn open, and to add insult to injury along the way people hurled abuse at Him. And up on the cross, they even said, “He saved others, He cannot even save Himself.”

He was placed up on a cross, alongside others who were Rome’s enemies: thieves, murders, traitors of Caesar. The perfect Son of Man was placed alongside sinners to be killed. His death was tragic, lonely, painful, shameful. He did this for you and me. His love for us is so great, He would be willing to pay the debt we owe God for our sin. It’s a debt that we cannot pay. That is why Jesus last words while on the cross were so powerful, “It is finished.” In the original language this phrase was an accounting term meaning, “paid in full”. Jesus said our debt to God was paid in full. He paid it in full for us. **THIS. CHANGES. EVERYTHING.**

Salvation was now possible. Being made right with God was now possible. All that creation looked forward too was now coming to fruition.

Eternal life was now possible. No longer an enemy of God, but now a name change to 'Friend of God' was now possible. Brokenness could now be restored. Real healing could now begin to take place. Being able to turn from sin was now possible. The power of sin and Satan were now conquered. The right kind of self-worth that is based upon being made in the image of God was now possible. Being made new creatures of God was now possible. Hope for a better, greater future, one that was full of healing and blessing, that promised abundant life was now a reality. God seeing us as perfect and righteous was now possible because of Jesus spilled blood that washed us clean. We now could be made alive with Christ.

The truth that after 3 days He rose from the dead changes everything. He said He would rise and He did. This has been one of the greatest fights of Satan, to get you to believe that Jesus's death and resurrection was at best powerless or didn't even happen. Soon after Jesus left the grave, the religious leaders of the day freaked out because there was no body. Was it possible He really raised back to life? They had to quickly come up with a scheme that someone stole the body. There is so much evidence around His death and resurrection and the veracity of data in scripture. Ladies and gentlemen, we do not have a dead Savior, a dead Savior cannot save. But, we have a living Savior who justifies us and intercedes for us. And, because we have a Savior who is the "first fruit" of creation as 1 Corinthians 15 says, who was the first to rise into eternal life with a glorified body, those of us who trust in Him will also rise into eternal life with a glorified body for eternity that will see no decay.

There is one more thing I would like to add. Jesus gave up His life. He was obedient to God all the way to the cross. Who killed Jesus? Ultimately it was God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" Jesus was the only option. He was the only perfect sacrifice that could fulfill the old sacrificial system. Sin caused death. Death was required for punishment of sin. No other death could ever satisfy the requirement...except the sinless death of Jesus. It was the most gracious act ever, filled with mercy and goodness. Jesus took our sin, and instead gave us His righteousness. Satan didn't conquer Jesus that day. Jesus conquered Satan. Man didn't conquer Jesus that day, Jesus conquered what man could not conquer. Jesus gave His life. After Jesus said "it is finished", scripture says He breathed His last breath. Death couldn't even

conquer Jesus that day. He was the one in control. He rose from the dead. This act of mercy and grace changes everything. This separates Christianity out from all other religions. We have a God that is alive. He isn't dead and lifted to some higher life in His death or looked to as some great man that walked the earth and lived until death. Jesus is alive, today. He did what He came to do. He is Risen!...and this changes everything.

Do you believe it? Have you received it?