

Easter: His Death for My Life

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HE IS RISEN!!!! (he is risen indeed!)

Today's Message: His Death for My Life

Easter, Resurrection Day, is Christians MOST IMPORTANT day of the year! Jesus said, "BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU ALSO WILL LIVE!" this is our HOPE.

Consider: Three men died on a cross. Why? Nailing criminals to a cross was a practice used by the Romans. It was barbaric. Horrific. And unimaginable. They made examples of those who broke the law. It was public and dying on the cross was agonizingly slow. You would asphyxiate.

Why did Jesus have to DIE for us to have LIFE?

A. The Problem – Sin, Evil, Brokenness, & Death

1. **Evil in the world** – Death, war, poverty, floods, pollution, natural disasters, and starvation
 - Carbon tax! Green spaces! Environmental policies!
 - Democracy, or socialism, or communism... we need reform! Social reform! Financial reform!
 - History shows that we have tried ALL of these things... we have had wealth... kings... governors... freedom... prosperity... slavery... poverty... sickness... dictators... war... peace... and yet! **The PROBLEM HAS REMAINED!**
2. **Sickness:** Pain, Cancer, MS, dementia, heart disease, aging bodies, and decay
 - **Around 9 million people die every year of hunger and hunger-related diseases. This is more than from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.**
 - The best medicines and advancements in technology have HELPED but are unable to SOLVE the PROBLEM.
 - **DEATH & PAIN continues to ravage our bodies! The PROBLEM REMAINS.**
3. **Abuse: emotional, sexual, physical:**
 - Kids are sold into sex slavery around the world
 - They are abused by parents, siblings and others in authority
 - Spousal abuse continues to rise
 - People are left BROKEN beyond repair. Devastated. Ruined. Without HOPE!
 - **The BEST LAWS & LAW ENFORCEMENT has NOT SOLVED THE PROBLEM!**
4. **Mental health: Anxiety, depression, bi-polar, schizophrenia, rejection, and abandonment**
 - **Have you ever felt rejected? By friends at school? Family members?**
 - **Have you ever felt anxious about your future?**

- Have you ever been touched by depression and felt there is no reason to continue living?
5. **Sin & evil:** Addiction, sexual immorality, lying, stealing, rape, murder, abortion, angry outbursts, jealousy, greed, corruption, pride, gossiping, slander, bitterness, selfishness
- **This is where it hits home.** The evil in this world is not just OUT THERE – no it is IN US.
 - **EACH OF US TAKE PART IN THE EVIL & SIN OF THIS WORLD.**

ALL of the above ultimately DESTROYS PEOPLE. Man has been unable to solve ANY of these problems.

Addictions have prevailed! Abuse has prevailed! Sickness and death! Broken relationships! WAR REMAINS! DEATH REMAINS!

Romans 8:20–22 (ESV) ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM ISN'T POLITICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, OR FINANCIAL – ITS SIN – AND SIN HAS INFECTED PEOPLE

Genesis 2:17 (ESV) 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” **THE CHOICE & THE CONSEQUENCE.**

Why did God allow Sin? God wanted people to be free to choose him or reject him. To LOVE Him of their own volition.

You cannot have the ability to CHOOSE SOMEONE without also having the ability to REJECT THEM.

John 14:6 (ESV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1 John 4:7 (ESV) ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

SIN & EVIL occur when we REJECT the GOD OF TRUTH, LOVE, LIFE.

Romans 6:23 (ESV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus OFFERED us LIFE. But we CHOSE SIN & DEATH. Jesus PAID OUR DEATH. So, we could CHOOSE LIFE.

B. The Solution – His DEATH for My LIFE

1 Corinthians 15:21–22 (ESV) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

SIN is like CANCER – Even small amounts of cancer destroy the body and kill people.

ALL of us SIN – that cancer is apart of us – whether you have murdered someone (BIG SIN) or told a lie (SMALL SIN) ALL sin KILLS the body and ALL sin can only be REMEDIED THROUGH DEATH.

WHAT IF I DO ENOUGH GOOD DEEDS? That would be like trying to EXERCISE to KILL CANCER

There is only one way to deal with cancer. Eradicate it. Sin is like cancer. All of us have sinned. Thus, all of us should be eradicated.

God is HOLY. God is also JUST. Would it be JUST for God to allow sin to go unpunished? NO!

Anyone who says, “A loving God would just forgive without payment” has never had someone kick them in the shin or steal their wallet! Or worse – abuse someone they love!

When we experience wrongs against us – we DEMAND JUSTICE.

You might say, “BUT THE PUNISHMENT IS TOO GREAT! WE COULD NEVER LIVE UP TO GODS STANDARD!”

YOU ARE RIGHT!! AND THAT IS WHY JESUS CAME AND DIED!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

HIS DEATH FOR OUR LIFE!!

1 Timothy 2:3–6 (ESV) ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

John 3:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Why would he do that? Because He LOVES US! And desires to woo us to Himself! He wants our LOVE!

He gave us LIFE. We chose DEATH. He paid our DEATH. We can CHOOSE LIFE.

IMPORTANT: You can’t DO enough GOOD DEEDS to be saved! WHY? Because SIN = DEATH. Only DEATH can pay the DEBT OWED. We EITHER DIE in our SINS. Or we ACCEPT Jesus’ DEATH for our LIFE!

Jesus didn’t come to make bad people good! He came to make DEAD people LIVE!

THIS IS GOOD NEWS! This is how much God loves you! JESUS PAID OUR DEATH AND OFFERS LIFE!

C. The Invitation: Come as you are, repent, believe & be SAVED!

You might be thinking... BUT death, brokenness, pain, suffering... they are STILL HERE!

2 Peter 3:9-12 ESV The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

ARE YOU: struggling with addiction? Bitterness? Mental health? Broken from abuse? Ruled by shame & fear? Have you hurt others? Have you been rejected?

JESUS DIED FOR YOU – to pay for ALL of that! To forgive your sins & heal your wounds!

RESPONSE: Don't wait another minute! Say, "YES" to His offer! TRUST HIM – FOLLOW HIM!

- 1. WRITE DOWN ON THE CARDS – the sin and brokenness in your life – then LEAVE IT AT THE CROSS!**
- 2. COMMUNION – grab elements and head back to your seats.**

Matthew 26:26-29 (ESV) Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

PRAYER AT THE FRONT – COME & RECEIVE PRAYER!

He is RISEN! He is RISEN INDEED!

Maranatha! Jesus came! He is coming back!