

## EASTER SUNDAY 2024

### TODAY IS A DAY OF CELEBRATION

**Resurrection Sunday (TODAY) is the HIGHEST and MOST IMPORTANT DAY of the year**

- **TODAY we celebrate the VICTORY OF JESUS OVER DEATH AND THE GRAVE!**
- But there would be no celebration
  - o No deliverance
  - o No salvation
  - o No thanksgiving
    - WITHOUT FRIDAY
- ON FRIDAY – we met to remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross
  - o The Resurrection is a celebration ONLY because of the great sacrifice of Jesus on the cross

### **It is important to understand what happened at the crucifixion of Jesus...**

- ON GOOD FRIDAY...
  - o High Priests Bring Jesus before Pilate (the Roman Governor of Judea)
    - Why did the Jewish leaders bring Jesus to the Roman Governor?
      - Because they were not allowed to carry out capital punishment
      - Jesus could only be put to death by convincing Rome that He was a threat
    - Pilates wife
      - Tells Pilate “Have nothing to do with this man” I had a horrible dream...
    - Pilate questions Jesus
      - Are you king? Jesus: “Are you asking for yourself or others”
      - Jesus; “everyone that is of the truth hears my voice”
      - Pilate: What is truth?
    - Pilate tries to release Jesus not Barrabus
      - “not this man but Barrabus!”
    - Pilate has Jesus scourged
      - Jesus is bleeding, crowned with thorns and wearing a cheap purple robe
    - Pilate Threatens Jesus
      - “I have authority to put you to death or allow you to live”
    - Jesus reveals His authority
      - “You would have no authority over me at all except it were given to you from above...”
    - Pilate Pleads for the life of Jesus
      - CRUCIFY, CRUCIFY, CRUCIFY...
      - Shall I crucify your king?
        - o We have no king but Caesar!
    - Pilate washes Hands... “I find no fault with him.. Therefore you take and kill him
  - o Jesus is taken by the Roman guard... bleeding, beaten
    - He is forced to carry his cross nearly a mile...

### **The Crucifixion**

Mrk 15:21-47 (NKJV) And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.... [24] And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments...Now it was the third hour, [9am] when they crucified Him. [26] And the inscription of His accusation was placed above: which read “THE KING OF THE JEWS.” [27] and with Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left.... [29] And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "HA! You said that you would destroy the temple and build it in three days, [30] now, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" [31] Likewise

the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, "He saved others; but Himself He cannot save. [32] Let this Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

[33] Now when the sixth hour [12 noon] had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour [3pm]. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying..., "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"...

[37] [THEN] Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. [38] Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

[39] So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!" [40] There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, [41] who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

[42] Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, [43] Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member...went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. [44] Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and... he granted the body to Joseph.

[46] [Joseph] bought fine linen, took Him down, and had him wrapped in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. [47] And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.

## THE RESURRECTION HIS-STORY

Jhn 20:1-18 (NKJV) Now **the first day of the week** Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that **the stone had been taken away from the tomb.** [2] Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "**They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.**" [3] **Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple,** and were going to the tomb. [4] So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. [5] And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. [6] Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, [7] and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. [8] Then the other disciple, who **came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.** [9] For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. [10] Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

[11] But **Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping,** and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. [12] And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. [13] Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." [14] Now when she had said this, **she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.** [15] **Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"** She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." [16] **Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).** [17] Jesus said to her, **"Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'**" [18] Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

The Bible records that Jesus appeared to His disciples many times (10 plus) before His ascension!

- Jesus even appearing to 500 people at one of these event

1Co 15:3-7 (NIV) For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, [5] and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. [6] After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. [7] Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

## **I was on WCHV with Jeff Gaffney and He asked me the #1 Question about Jesus.. Why did Jesus Have to die?**

- Many people believe that “Jesus died for our sins”
  - o This is a VERY NARROW understanding of the Cross

## **Jesus lived, died and was resurrected FOR SEVEN REASONS**

- **These reasons are CLEARLY recorded in the words of Jesus**
  - o **And they are mostly found in the book of John**

## **SEVEN REASONS THAT JESUS CAME, LIVED, DIED and WAS RAISED TO LIFE...**

### **1. JESUS CAME TO GIVE US ABUNDANT LIFE**

John 10:10 (NKJV) The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

Jhn 15:10-11 (NIV) If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. [11] I have told you this **so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.**

- Jesus did not come to impose more rules
- Jesus did not come to place restrictions on us
- Jesus came to give us JOY IN LIVING
  - o One of my kids said, “Dad, you and mom ought to get out and have more fun”
  - o Later I thought about it... We have fun every day...
    - Of course we need recreation and vacation like everyone else
    - Most people don't enjoy their life
      - They are just living for the weekend
      - They do not experience the same joy that we have all the time
      - They feel the need to get drunk or do fun things because they don't feel joy
    - In contrast to making life difficult
      - Jesus came to give us Joy in life
      - That the NORMAL things that we do will be full of abundance and purpose
    - TO KNOW WHO WE ARE – children and dearly loved of God
    - TO KNOW WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR – To live with nothing to prove, lose, hide
      - This is abundant living
      - Not that we have an abundance of things..
    - To live like Paul
      - Php 4:12-13 (NIV) I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every

situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.  
[13] I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

## **2. TO DELIVER US FROM BONDAGE TO SIN**

Gal. 5:1 (NIV) **It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.** Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Col 1:13-14 (NKJV) He has **delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son** of His love, [14] in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

John 12:46 (NIV) **I have come into the world as a light,** so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

- Jesus came to CONVEY US FROM A LIFE OF DARKNESS AND BONDAGE TO HIS KINGDOM
- Many people think that FREEDOM IS DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO DO
  - o Freedom is DOING WHAT YOU WERE CREATED TO DO (Being who you were created to be)
- Doing what YOU want always leads to bondage
  - o Rom 8:6 (NIV) The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.
  - o Doing what “feels good” to the flesh leads to
    - Selfishness
    - Pride
    - Excess (overeating, over-recreating, collecting things...)
    - Drug abuse
- Jesus came to set us free from the flesh
  - o By His example he showed us how to live with nothing to lose, prove or hide
  - o By His death and resurrection he provided a way to “Walk in the spirit”
    - Gal 5:16 (NKJV) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- Jesus came a LIGHT so that we can discern what is beneficial and what is not good for us
  - o This light comes in the form of the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
  - o “The spirit will be in you and guide you into all truth” John 16

## **3. TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD (an example for us to follow)**

John 6:38-40 (NKJV) For **I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.** [39] This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. [40] And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

1Jn 3:16 (NKJV) **By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.** (And we also ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters)

Php 2:5-9 (NIV) **Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,** [6] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; [7] rather, **he made himself nothing** by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death

on a cross! [9] Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

- Jesus lived in obedience to God
- Jesus fulfilled all the 28 prophecies about him from the scriptures
- Jesus taught us to live in communion with God
  - o We gain purpose and direction
- Jesus showed us how to BE YIELDED TO GOD – To love god with all Heart soul mind and strength
  - o Jesus showed us How to live in YIELDED TO OTHERS
    - To love others with Heart Soul Mind and strengthe
- Jesus lived and an example for us
- Jesus died to ransom us
- Jesus was raised to give us the power to live supernaturally

#### **4. TO DESTROY THE POWER & WORKS OF THE DEVIL**

1 John 3:8b (NIV) The reason **the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.**

- The Devil gains a foothold in our lives when we live outside the grace of God
  - o Jesus came to give us power to destroy the works of the enemy
    - 2Co 10:4-5 (NIV) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. [5] We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
  - o Just by our declaration we have authority to overcome the enemy in our lives
  - o In Revelation Jesus declares
    - Rev 1:18 (NIV) **I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.**
  - o **Because of Jesus, we don't have to be under the affects of the enemy**
    - **We have the power to "demolish every pretension" every lie of the enemy**

#### **5. TO REVEAL THE KINGDOM OF GOD – RESTORE OUR AUTHORITY ON THE EARTH**

John 18:36-37 (NIV) Jesus said, "**My kingdom is not of this world.** If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." [37] "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "**You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.** Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Luk 22:29 (NIV) And **I confer on you a kingdom,** just as my Father conferred one on me,

Mat 16:19 (NIV) **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**"

Rev 5:10 (NIV) You have **made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.**"

- Jesus has made a way to
  - o "Let you kingdom come, let your will be done ON THE EARTH as it is in heaven"
- We now can live according to the purposes and plans of God on the earth
  - o Jesus life showed us how to live in this kingdom
  - o His teachings on the kingdom illustrate what it means
  - o His death and resurrection made it possible for us to live this way!
- To live on the earth as it is in heaven

- Where the purposes and power of God are manifest
- Where Jesus can be clearly seen
  - Worshipped and adored
- Where there is no sorrow
- To be the BODY OF CHRIST
- To be the FAMILY OF GOD
- To be the TEMPLE OF GOD (with His spirit inside of us)
- To be the ARMY OF GOD
- To be the BRIDE OF CHRIST...

## 6. TO PURCHASE OUR WHOLENESS AND HEALING

1Pe 2:22-25 (NKJV) "WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH"; [23] who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; [24] who **Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.** [25] For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- Jesus came to bring Health to our BODY, SOUL and SPIRIT
  - By His shed blood our sins are forgiving
  - By His broken body our bodies are healed and we live in whoness

## 7. TO GRANT US EVERLASTING LIFE

Jhn 3:16-17 (NIV) For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.** [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **save the world through him.**

Jhn 6:39-40 (NKJV) This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. [40] **And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life;** and I will raise him up at the last day."

Mrk 10:45 (NKJV) For even **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**"

- Jesus came to bring us salvation
- To give the opportunity to have our sins forgiven and to gain entry in to Heaven
- This is the most common reason given for Jesus death but is ONLY ONE of many

IF JESUS WAS NOT RAISED FROM THE DEAD...

1Co 15:16-22 (NIV) For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. [17] And **if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.** [18] Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. [19] If only for this life we have hope in Christ, **we are of all people most to be pitied.** [20] But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] **For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.** [22] For as in Adam all die, **so in Christ all will be made alive.**

Php 2:6-11 (NIV) [JESUS], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; [7] rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! [9] Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, [10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.