Easter 2021

The Resurrected King

Last week I shared with you about the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and the Nation that is His. Many in Israel were hoping for a Jewish National Hero and Messiah, but to most this man riding on a colt did not fulfill their expectations.

So what were the religious leaders going to do with Him?

What do you do to an influential person…

Who tells you that your nation is cursed with an illustration from a fig tree?

Who called the temple “His House,” and totally blows up your lucrative religious business scam?

Who tells you that a widow who gave a couple pennies has given more than you?

This, Jesus, had even claimed to be God, when He said to the people…

**56**Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad.”

**57**The people said, “You aren’t even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?”

**58**Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I am!”

John 8:56-58

When Jesus said “I AM.” He was taking them back in history to when Moses spoke with God on Mount Sinai.

Exodus 3:13-14

**13**But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

**14**God replied to Moses, “I am who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.”

So what are these religious leaders going to do with a man who claims to be God, has raised people from the dead, and has many convinced that He is the Messiah?

The scribes and Pharisees had even shared that they felt like “the whole world was going after,” Jesus.

They are going to have to kill Him. We read in Matthew 26:

**26**When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, **2**“As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

**3**At that same time the leading priests and elders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, **4**plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. **5**“But not during the Passover celebration,” they agreed, “or the people may riot.”

Matthew 26:1-5 NLT

**14**Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests **15**and asked, “How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?” And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. **16**From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Matthew 26:14-16 NLT

Christ our King, our Savior, our Good Shepherd, was going to be crucified. But take heart, don’t be discouraged because it was part of God’s plan…

Peter, after Christ’s death, and after being anointed by the Holy Spirit, preached.

**22**“People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. **23**But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him.

Acts 2:22-23 NLT

God knew and, in fact, had planned for Jesus to die. Why?

John 3:16 says:

**16**“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NLT

And the prophet Isaiah had written:

Who has believed our message?
    To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?
**2**My servant grew up in the Lord’s presence like a tender green shoot,
    like a root in dry ground.
There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance,
    nothing to attract us to him.
**3**He was despised and rejected—
    a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.
We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.
    He was despised, and we did not care.

**4**Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;
    it was our sorrows that weighed him down.
And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,
    a punishment for his own sins!
**5**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.
**6**All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.
    We have left God’s paths to follow our own.
Yet the Lord laid on him
    the sins of us all.

**7**He was oppressed and treated harshly,
    yet he never said a word.
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.
    And as a sheep is silent before the shearers,
    he did not open his mouth.
**8**Unjustly condemned,
    he was led away.
No one cared that he died without descendants,
    that his life was cut short in midstream.
But he was struck down
    for the rebellion of my people.
**9**He had done no wrong
    and had never deceived anyone.
But he was buried like a criminal;
    he was put in a rich man’s grave.

**10**But it was the Lord’s good plan to crush him
    and cause him grief.
Yet when his life is made an offering for sin,
    he will have many descendants.
He will enjoy a long life,
    and the Lord’s good plan will prosper in his hands.
**11**When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish,
    he will be satisfied.
And because of his experience,
    my righteous servant will make it possible
for many to be counted righteous,
    for he will bear all their sins.
**12**I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier,
    because he exposed himself to death.
He was counted among the rebels.
    He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

Isaiah 53

And as Peter said…

He 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.
**25**Once you were like sheep
    who wandered away.
But now you have turned to your Shepherd,
    the Guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 2:24-25 NLT

God had a plan for Jesus to die for our sins so that we could draw close to Him. So that we could have friendship with Our perfect Father and Creator.

But He didn’t stop there, because that wouldn’t be very encouraging. In fact, Jesus would be able to be lumped together with every other religious leader who ever lived. Muhammad, Buddha, Guru Nanak, and Confucius they all died. But Jesus was different in a pretty powerful and convincing way. He didn’t stay dead, He was resurrected.

But before we get to that lets look at how He died. Because even His death pointed to His deity and His power.

**26**As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. **27**A large crowd trailed behind, including many grief-stricken women. **28**But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. **29**For the days are coming when they will say, ‘Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.’ **30**People will beg the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and plead with the hills, ‘Bury us.’ **31**For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?” (Fig Tree)

**32**Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. **33**When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

**34**Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

Luke 23:26-34 NLT

**44**By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. **45**The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. **46**Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!” And with those words he breathed his last. (Even as Jesus breathed His last breath, He was still demonstrating His power over the cosmos). But despite His power and His position, He was going to the grave.

Luke 23:44-46 NLT

**50**Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph. He was a member of the Jewish high council, **51**but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders. He was from the town of Arimathea in Judea, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come. **52**He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. **53**Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock. **54**This was done late on Friday afternoon, the day of preparation, as the Sabbath was about to begin.

Luke 23:50-54 NLT

So in just one week Jesus had gone from people shouting “Save Now!” to “Crucify Him!” He had gone from resurrecting Lazarus from the grave to being in a tomb Himself.

And that brings us to the reason of today’s celebration! And quite honestly our reason for celebration every day!

**28**Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

**2**Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. **3**His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. **4**The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

**5**Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6**He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. **7**And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

Matthew 28:1-7 NLT

Again we see the cosmic significance demonstrated through the forces of nature. An earthquake seems almost to have proclaimed the resurrected King…In fact you might even be able to say that the “Rocks cried out!”

What do you believe about Jesus?

Is He your King, your Savior, is He your resurrection, your life, and your God?

Or is He someone that you are going to try to keep buried in the ground?

The Apostle Paul wrote

**17**…if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. **18**In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! **19**And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

**20**But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

**21**So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. **22**Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

1 Corinthians 15:17-22 NLT

Trust in the power of Jesus’ resurrection for a new life here and now and everlasting life to come.