

4-21-19 Easter Sunday
THE CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION STORY

Intro: Today is Resurrection Sunday. The Resurrection is that event that defines our faith more than any other event of history. There are many religious leaders in history, but none that made the claims that Jesus made and none that conquered death like He did. This is that day when our Lord was resurrected from the grave. The world knows the story of resurrection but they take it just as a story. Not an historical fact. Today we as Christians do not believe that we are celebrating some cunningly devised fable.

II Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

This day we should look at the account given in Scripture and refresh our minds and sharpen our remembrance of what our Lord did for us.

Today I have no clever homilies to share nor will I impress you with excellency of speech. I am not here to entertain you. We are here to bring to your remembrance what our Lord did for us close to 2000 years ago.

I don't have three points and a poem. Instead we are going to read the Scripture account and let it warm our hearts. After all, this is what we base our faith in, not some great orator or homiletical sermon.

I. FIRST CONSIDER THE ACCOUNT OF HOW UNJUSTLY OUR LORD WAS CRUCIFIED:

Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

Matthew 27:20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

Matthew 27:21 The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

Matthew 27:22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

Matthew 27:23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

Matthew 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

Matthew 27:26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

A governor, or magistrate, is commissioned to do justice.

For the most part even the most ungodly of magistrates try to fulfill this role.

Pilate tried to do so and he called Jesus a just man. He was declared innocent by Pilate. Note, he declared our Lord's innocence to the crowd.

Matthew 27:18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

Pilate was warned by his wife concerning Christ.

Jesus could not be accused of sin he was blameless and was legally declared to be blameless by Pilate himself, who attempted to have him released, but like all good, I should say evil politicians, he did the thing that was politically correct and not morally correct.

II. Consider How Jesus Endured Such Contradiction of Sinners.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

1. Note: how wicked men took and mistreated our Lord.

Matthew 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

Matthew 27:28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

Matthew 27:29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Matthew 27:30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

Matthew 27:31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

Note: There was a common hall, a place where the soldiers congregated. In this place the soldiers took to mocking Christ.

Throughout history there have always been some soldiers who become hardened by death, pain, and suffering, and have no compassion.

Today is no exception: we have soldiers, doctors, and even police who are often cruel and abuse their authority. Although it seems that today there is such a despising of authority that we go on witch hunts to find even the slightest offence of these men. To me this wreaks of an agenda rather than truly seeking justice in our society.

So today the devil is called the "god of this world" and gives authority to the basest of men.

Our forefathers were wise when they limited how long men could be in their positions as governors and rulers of our nation. They made a mistake though with the judges of the land. These men get into power for life and now dictate laws through the courts rather than through the originally intended processes. The courts rule rather than the people's representatives. This is what has created what some refer to as the political swamp.

III. SIMON WAS COMPELLED TO TAKE UP OUR LORD'S CROSS.

Matthew 27:32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

Matthew 27:33 And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

Then it goes on to describe the crucifixion.

Consider Simon.

There are some crosses we bear because we are compelled to do so.

There are then those crosses that we bear because we are willing to suffer for doing right.

I Peter 2:19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

I Peter 2:20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

I Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

I Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

I Peter 2:23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Theme of our musical this year was "TAKE UP YOUR CROSS.."

We do know that sometime after this event Simon of Cyrene became a Christian.

Mark 15:21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.

Rufus is later mentioned affectionately by Paul in the book of Romans as one of the saints of the church of Rome.

The Bible says we are Christ like not because we suffer but because we believe on him and commit our heart and lives to Him.

I talked to a man in prison who tried to justify himself and said to me, "well Paul went to prison." I said yes but not for the same reason you are in prison. Just because you suffer that does not make you godly.

We are Christ like when we suffer for doing right and take it with patience.

IV. Jesus bore his cross to Calvary and was willing to suffer, and did so.

Matthew 27:34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

Why would he not take the vinegar? It was because he was willing to bear all the pain for us. He suffered for us. This was his work!

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

V. NOTE: Consider how they made a spectacle out of our Lord's suffering.

Matthew 27:35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

Matthew 27:36 And sitting down they watched him there;

Matthew 27:37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The cruelty of sinful men is amazing.

Saw a documentary a while back about how there was a time in our country where large gatherings of people would be drawn to lynchings. To some it is entertainment to see others suffer.

How wicked it is that sinful men are entertained by the sufferings of others?

VI. It is sad how some men are without fear even when faced with eternity themselves. NOTE: also the cruelty of the crowd.

Matthew 27:38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

Matthew 27:39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

Matthew 27:40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Matthew 27:41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

Matthew 27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

Matthew 27:43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

Matthew 27:44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

Note: The thieves. **BOTH MOCKED AT FIRST.**

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

NOTE: Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

In Luke it tells us how one of the thieves got saved:

Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

Luke 23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

Luke 23:41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

Luke 23:42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

VIII. CONSIDER: THE SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATIONS WITNESSING OF CHRIST.

Matthew 27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Matthew 27:47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

Matthew 27:48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

Matthew 27:49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

Matthew 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

Matthew 27:52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

Matthew 27:53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

The darkness, the earthquake, the rocks renting.

The veil of the temple being rent.

A person would have to be blind not to note these as supernatural manifestations of God's witness to Christ being indeed who He said he was. Yet even today as God is trying to get our attention through natural disasters, and other environmental and ecological changes in our world. Instead, we just attribute these things to chance. Instead the corrupt humanistic and atheistic world looks at these things as an opportunity to gain even more power through their radical environmental laws. First they call it global warming and when that word does not suit their cause they call it climate change so any radical change can be attributed to their science rather than to God. In a humanistic society God does not fit into the equation.

IX. NOTE THE CENTURION COMING TO HIS SENSES.

Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. Today no one comes to their sense.

What will it take for some to believe? The soldiers realized this all was of God, but this was not the case for the religious leaders and Jews they were still hardened.

X. NOTE: There were some of our Lord's followers who were not ashamed to be associated with Christ. But some feared for their lives. Where were all His Apostles?

Matthew 27:55 And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:

Matthew 27:56 Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.

Matthew 27:57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

Matthew 27:58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

Matthew 27:59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

Matthew 27:60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Matthew 27:61 And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

Peter denied the Lord.

The rest were scattered.

This was a sad day as we consider that few were willing to come out and be associated the Lord.

XI. THERE IS A REPENTANCE THAT IS NOT TO SALVATION.

Many people will admit they make mistakes but this alone does not save them.

They admitted they were in error but still would not get saved.

Here we have an example of men whose hearts were hardened like Pharaoh's. They are going headlong into destruction.

We should guard ourselves least we enter such a state.

Matthew 27:62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

Matthew 27:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Matthew 27:64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: ***so the last error shall be worse than the first.***

Matthew 27:65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

Matthew 27:66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

NOTE: How their hearts were hardened: These men, I believe, committed the unpardonable sin. Some sins can never be pardoned. Premeditated unbelief in the face of proven facts. It is for this purpose God requires of us faith to be saved. If we see and reject there is no forgiveness. How foolish men are to ask to see. God in His mercy blesses us when we have faith, and forgives us when we do not! We cannot be forgiven when we see and reject what we see and know for a fact. God can forgive our ignorance but not our obstinance in the face of reality.

Matthew 28:11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

Matthew 28:12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

Matthew 28:13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

Matthew 28:14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.
Matthew 28:15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

XII. Eye witnesses of the Resurrection.

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

Matthew 28:2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

Matthew 28:4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

Matthew 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

XIII. OUR LORD'S GREAT COMMISSION TO THE APOSTLES.

Matthew 28:8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

Matthew 28:9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Matthew 28:10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Matthew 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

Matthew 28:17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Conclusion: And so this is why we are here.

MISSIONS MONTH:

TRACTS:

SPECIAL MEETINGS:

SPECIAL MUSICALS:

VISITING WITNESSING:

The purpose of the church is to obey Christ and fulfill what we call the great commission.

This time of the year so many call Easter, a better name for it is Resurrection Sunday! Let us remember what the Lord did for us. Let us go on and serve Him. Let us never forget the commission he has given us. TILL HE COMES.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.