



Pastor Ed Kemp

MESSAGE NOTES

Mark 15:37-47

37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last...

39 When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

43 Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. 45 And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. 46 Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus were looking on to see where He was laid.

Luke 24:1-6

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they (_____who?_____) came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; 5 and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? 6 He is not here, but He has risen.

Perplexed because the dead don't resurrect!

Was Jesus dead?

#1. 24 hours

- Arrest at Midnight
- On trial all night
- Flogged and Beaten
- Crucified & stabbed

#2. Eyewitnesses

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried...

Was Jesus alive?

#1. Eyewitnesses

I Corinthians 15:3-8

...and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

#2. Objections to Eyewitnesses

- The writers were biased!
- Not enough Witnesses!
- Mass Hallucination!
- No Skeptics!

What about outside sources?

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him. And the tribe of Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared. *Josephus, Testimonium Flavianum 93 AD*

So What?!

What difference does any of this make?

#1. I can receive a pardon for the past!

He has forgiven all our sins...and cancelled every record of the debt we owed; Christ has done away with it by nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:14

#2. I can receive power for the present!

I pray that you will know how great His power is for those who have put their trust in Him. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. Ephesians 1:19-20

#3. I can receive promise for the future!

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read aloud: Luke 24:1-12

List each character mentioned by Luke (groups of people would be 1 character.)

What does Luke accomplish in his story by mentioning so many characters? What kind of realistic testimony does the story accomplish by mentioning so many people who saw Jesus die? What if you were in a court of law and you had this many witnesses testify to Jesus death, would it be considered unimpeachable testimony? Why would Luke want to accomplish this?

Look at what each character says and identify the attitude behind what they say.

Look at what Jesus says to each character, is He supportive, confrontive, sympathetic?

In Lk. 23:27-31 Jesus speaks to the nation of Israel, vs. 31 is a proverb and basically means, "If the Romans do this to an innocent man during peace what will happen when you are at war with them?"

Jesus has been exhausted, beaten, whipped and now crucified, how does he speak any words of encouragement/comfort in Lk. 23:34 & 43?

If you were Jesus what would you be saying at this point to the characters in the story?

When you see injustice, cruelty, or unkindness are you able to maintain perspective and speak wisely into a situation or does fight or flight take over? How about in your family, with your parents or children, do you speak wisely, does anger take over, do you avoid confrontation?

Verse 31 is probably the most unquoted verse Jesus ever spoke. Could you use this verse when you want to confront someone who is short on patience, angry or vengeful? Could you say, "If this is your response when the tree is green, how will you respond when dry?" Could you restate this so it is useable?

Family Time: Easter egg hunt!!