

REVIVE CHURCH—PALM SUNDAY

The cross of Christ

Luke 18:31-34 (NKJV) 31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 “For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 “They will scourge [Him] and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.” 34 But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.

It was written in the Scripture and clearly foretold clearly by Jesus to his disciples many times that He would be persecuted, killed, buried and on the third day rise from the dead. No one had clarity why these things must happen (including Satan). Only the Father, Son and Holy Spirit contained this hidden wisdom. God’s pre-ordained plan was for the Son to take our place, suffer for our sin and die our death so that through Him we could be saved from sin, death and hell and be fully restored to the Father.

Just a few days before His crucifixion, Jesus rode from the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. **Much would happen this week that would fulfill prophecies of old and reveal that Jesus really was the Messiah the prophets had foretold. Jesus knew this week would be His last.**

Matthew 21:1-17 (NKJV) 1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose [them] and bring [them] to Me. 3 "And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them." 4 All this was done **that it might be fulfilled** which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’" 6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set [Him] on them. 8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread [them] on the road. 9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed [is] He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!"

It was **Passover time** for the Jew and they flocked from their hometowns to Jerusalem to celebrate this annual feast and reminder of how God had rescued them from the hands of the Egyptians and saved their families from death. **They were saved from death because the blood of an unblemished lamb would be sacrificed, and the blood applied to the entry of their homes would serve as a temporary covering until the Jesus the lamb of God own blood would be poured out for all.**

Jesus was knowingly fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy which was given over 500 yrs. prior to this event.

Zechariah 9:9- Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

- The expectant crowd that was there spread their cloaks in front of Him, they cut down palm branches and spread them on the road. **The crowd shouted out from Psalm 118 “blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna to the son of David”-they were recognizing Jesus as the Messiah, the word Hosanna was the cry to God to save us.**
- This was a cry for deliverance from a distressed people, desperate for the promised Messiah to step in to be recognized as the One who would *free them from oppression, from sin and to begin His earthly reign-*
- It needs to be clearly understood that Jesus came humbly riding on the donkey as the suffering servant with His heart fixed upon fulfilling everything that was prophesied concerning Him. He was fully willing to lay down His life for humanity through extreme torture and suffering. **He was moving towards the cross which would become the bridge for all humanity to be saved.**

The Apostle Paul who wrote a majority of the New Testament **In Corinthians makes an incredible statement, giving us the emphasis of his ministry.**

1 Corinthians 2:1-5-And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Paul makes an astonishing statement “I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”!

- *For a highly educated Jew to say I determined to know nothing else is meant to draw us into the depth of this truth that is superior to all other knowledge. This truth should also pierce our hearts and make us ask the question, “do I have this value, this determination concerning the cross.*
- **It is meant to make us examine:** the finished work of Jesus Christ and our understanding of the magnitude of His sacrifice.

- The inheritance of the saints within the death of Jesus Christ is meant to be **appropriated** (applied) to every aspect of our lives.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." ²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

As we speak of the cross we are referring to Jesus sacrificial death on the cross and everything that was accomplished through His sacrifice. There is no Gospel without the cross of Jesus Christ. If we want to live a life marked by God's power and anointing, we will be a people who do not enter into humanistic and philosophical debate, we will preach Christ crucified. The cross of Christ is the starting point for every true believer. It is also the place of sanctification and consecration. The beauty of Jesus sacrifice is immeasurable!

- **This means we must continue in maturity to find out everything involved in the finished work of Jesus Christ for it is where all identity, authority, power and fellowship with God flow. Many believe in the death and even resurrection of Jesus Christ including Satan and every demon but just believing an event happened doesn't save you. Jesus finished work must be received and appropriated into our lives. As disciples we apply this finished work by grace through faith to our lives.**

The cross represents one perfect, all sufficient sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:11-14- ¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

The priests of the old covenant always stood, they never sat down because their task was never fully complete. He would have to make the sacrifice over and over again because the sacrifice could never take away the sin.

In contrast to the old covenant priest, Jesus after He had made one sacrifice for sins, sat down at the right hand of God.

1. This passage explains in the strongest possible way the completeness of what Jesus did. By one sacrifice, He has perfected. The Greek verb is in the perfect tense which means to do something perfectly. It is done, it is finished, never having to be done again. **Jesus Christ complete sacrifice covers all time and eternity.**
2. Jesus sat down because He was never going to have to offer another sacrifice. By one sacrifice, He has made total and perfect provision for every need of every human being.

The nature of Jesus sacrifice was prophetically described in Isaiah 53, 700 years before it took place.

Isaiah 53:6-All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah explains every individual ever born from every tribe and nation have gone astray and went our own way (Sin nature). We have all turned our backs on God and His requirements. The Bible calls this *iniquity* which is a very strong word. *The best modern translation for iniquity would be rebellion.* Iniquity also refers to the evil consequences of, and the punishment for rebellion.

- Jesus sacrifice is perfect because God put upon Jesus the rebellion of us all, along with all of the evil consequences and judgments that were due us because of that rebellion.
- All the evil due to us came upon Jesus Christ, so that all the good due to the sinless obedience of the Son of God might be available to us. He bore our sin in order that we could bear His righteousness. He took our wrath so that we could receive His mercy and grace.

2 Corinthians 5:21- For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The Scripture has one consistent message. There is only one remedy for sin, a sacrifice! Every sacrifice in the Old Testament looked forward prophetically to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Hebrews 10:3-4- ³But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

- In the Old Testament when the sacrifices were made every year it was a reminder of all of the sin committed. **These sacrifices could not take away sin. On the day of**

Atonement every year the Jewish people were reminded they had to constantly deal with the sin issue.

- In contrast to the old covenant priest, Jesus became both the sin sacrifice and High priest who approached the Father in heaven, perfectly with His own blood. **Hebrews 9:11-14** (NKJV) 11 But Christ came [as] High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Jesus sacrifice is all sufficient-You cannot add or take away.

Romans 8:31-32-³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

- All things are provided for us through the sacrifice of Jesus!
- The Father gave us His only Son, He will not withhold anything from us but freely give us all things.
- The one sacrifice of Jesus releases the total abundance of God's mercy and provision. We need no other basis because there is no other basis for salvation.
- Any premise other than Jesus sacrifice for us is a false basis. Your good works. Church attendance, morality all fall short of the glory of God!
- **As soon as the cross becomes displaced, you will find you are no longer enjoying the abundance of God's grace.** We should daily meditate and release praise and worship for the cross of Jesus Christ!

¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:14

1. **What Jesus did was perfectly perfect!** Our appropriation of His finished work in our life is progressive. Our legal standing with God through receiving Jesus Finished work personally is complete when we are born again. We became a child of God, an heir of God and co-heir of Christ. The entire inheritance is legally ours through Jesus Sacrifice.
2. **Experientially we do not possess it all.** If we are honest we will admit that everything Jesus paid for has not been fully appropriated to our lives by faith. We are in the process of being sanctified and receiving by faith what God has paid for in grace.

Communion

Home groups

1. Discuss the power of the cross in your own life and how you have grown in understanding the beauty of Jesus sacrifice.
2. Is the cross of Christ the emphasis of your life message or do you find yourself afraid to offend?
3. Why is there so much power contained within the death of Jesus? Power to save, power to sanctify and set you free.
4. Are you walking in the power of the finished work of Jesus? How can you appropriate the blood of Jesus to your life's circumstances?