

“The End Tells the Story”



Super Bowl LI:

If it taught us anything, it's this, “It ain't over till it's over.”

A quick refresher in case you forgot;

It was February 5, 2017 at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.

The New England Patriots were playing the Atlanta Falcons and the Falcons were on fire all the way through the first half and on into the 3rd quarter.

The half time score was **Falcons 21/Patriots 3**

The Falcons then added another touchdown at the beginning of the 3rd Quarter making it **Falcons 28/Patriots 3.**

Then with 2:06 left in the 3rd Quarter the Patriots finally scored their first touchdown of the game.

With 8:00 left in the 4th Quarter Patriot Defensive Guard #97 recovered a fumble which lead to another late touchdown making the score **Patriots 20/ Falcons 28**

At the end of the game with :57 Seconds left Tom Brady threw a strike into the end zone and then a 2 point conversion to tie the game that everyone watching thought was over at the beginning of the 4th Quarter.

In overtime the Patriots marched down the field scored a touchdown to win Super Bowl LI.

Matthew 27

15 Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. 16 At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. 17 So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" 18 For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

20 But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

21 "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

22 "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

23 "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

25 All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

26 Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

When I read the story of the crucifixion I'm gripped
And I'm glad the story didn't end there

Vs. 50,51

50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

Matthew 28

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

God does comebacks...

I would dare say - he's the King of comebacks...

Is there is a person with no hope...

Is there is a situation that seems impossible...

That is the perfect time for a God turn around...

The End tells the Story

Philippians 1

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Romans 10

11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

I want to share with you a thought about the graciousness & patience of our God:

Have you ever thought about how the story would have changed if people in the Bible had quit early? Or if they had died before their story was over...

- Noah would have ended as a drunk...
- Moses would be remembered as a displaced murderer...
- Samson would be remembered as a blind, weak man who lost his calling...
- David an adulterer and a murderer...
- Jonah would be remembered as the backslidden missionary...
- Peter as the betrayer...
- Thomas as a doubter...
- All the Disciples as disloyal, disowned, former Jesus followers

But their story didn't end that way...

Because God loved them through their mistakes...

He cared about their ending, because he is a Father...

He cares more about you than your mistakes...

Because He is a Father...

Psalm 25:3

“No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame...”

Isaiah 54

4

“Do not be afraid; **you will not be put to shame.**

Do not fear disgrace; **you will not be humiliated.**

You will forget the shame of your youth

and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

5

For your Maker is your husband—

the Lord Almighty is his name—

the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;

he is called the God of all the earth.

- The Devil specializes in your past...
- But God specializes in your future...
- The Devil will use your past to beat you up...
- God will use your past to beat the Devil...

Because... **“the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer”**

He is a Redeemer:

Redeemer: your buy back, kinsman-redeemer, avenger, & ransom

The End tells the Story...

Your greatest turning point comes when you surrender to Jesus

Oh the greater the surrender the greater the turnaround