

“NOT THE END”

Easter Sunday 2012

By: Allen Coleman

04/08/12

I. FRIDAY

[VIDEO: Friday]

- A. My first Easter we focused on which disciple? John.
- B. This Easter, Peter.

[MATTHEW 26:30-35]

- C. v32 - But after I rise... (in other words, its not the end I said so)
- D. Some of you have been Christians for a very long time...some of you have been Christians for a little while.
- E. And you start out full of hope, excitement, purpose.
- F. You feel like you're starting to heal.

[MATTHEW 26:69-75]

- G. Peter denies Jesus
- H. And you get to this place where you think, I didn't think this how would turn out.
- I. I thought I would be better than this
- J. I thought I would have finally dealt with that.
- K. I thought I would be more content.
- L. I thought I would have more happiness
- M. I thought I would have deeper community.
- N. I thought it would be different!
- O. And so Jesus is taken, abandoned by Peter, nailed to a cross.
- P. He feels defeated. He feels responsible. He feels stupid for thinking this would end any different.
- Q. But Friday is not the end because Jesus said so.

II. SATURDAY

[VIDEO: Saturday]

- A. You and I, we mostly live in the reality of Saturday.
- B. We are Saturday people.
- C. Saturday is the day after we think it ended.
- D. The day after the crisis, day after the hurt, the day after the failure.

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- E. Saturday is the day when we feel Jesus is gone, we've been defeated, and I may 'know' theologically, or understand intellectually, that He's promised otherwise...
- F. But emotionally and practically . . . it's Saturday. LOOK AROUND!
- G. My unbelief is fueled by circumstance.
- H. Friday was my experience with Jesus and all the promises that came with it.
- I. Saturday is the real world, when promises seem empty and Jesus feels like a fairy-tale.
- J. What do we know about Saturday? Matthew is the only one who provides any insight.

[MATTHEW 27:62-66]

- K. It's devoid of belief.
- L. Where is Peter?
- M. If you're Peter, where are you?
- N. After what just happened and what you did, where are you?

[JOHN 20:9-10]

- O. Peter was at home!
- P. You ever have those days.
- Q. Forget it. I'm not getting out of this bed today.
- R. Fear. Of men. Of yourself.
- S. Of trying one more time and getting your hopes up one more time.
- T. Forget it.
- U. I mean, we even know where the rest of them ended up eventually right?

[JOHN 20:19]

- V. Saturday feels like it's over and Jesus isn't alive.
- W. The disciples think it's over and Jesus isn't alive.
- X. Peter thinks it's over and Jesus isn't alive.
- Y. And in our pain and in our trials, we struggle and wonder whether Jesus is really alive.
- Z. But Saturday is not the end because Jesus said so.

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III. SUNDAY

[MATTHEW 28:1-10]

- A. Resurrection
- B. What Peter doesn't know is that Sunday is just a day away.
- C. That sunrise is just over the hills.
- D. The light is just at the end of the tunnel.
- E. There are times, trials, and pain that seem to go on forever and their are those that seem to keep repeating. But it's not the end.
- F. Returning to Jesus is always the beginning.

[JOHN 21:15-19]

- G. Peter restored.
- H. Didn't I tell you this was not the end.
- I. When Jesus steps out of the tomb on Easter morning:
 - 1. What we endured, is validated.
 - 2. What we doubted, is instead confirmed.
 - 3. What we fear, turns confident.
- J. This is not the end, church.
- K. We have an unexplainable hope and on this Easter we are reminded of hopeful beginnings, not hopeless endings.
- L. This is not the end, church because Jesus said so.

[**PHILIPPIANS 1:6** - *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*]

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IV. THE 3-DAY GOSPEL

- A. Friday is about His work & promise . . . not the end.
- B. Saturday is about our faith & endurance . . . not the end.
- C. Sunday is always about the beginning . . . never the end.

[2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-12] - *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.]*

[VIDEO: Sunday]