



Intro: Welcome to Easter at Rochester Assembly! Resurrection Sunday! We are so excited to have you here with us celebrating and worshiping Jesus.

Recap: Over the past 3 weeks leading up to this day we have been in a sermon series entitled Praise Hymn. Last week I asked the question “How do you see Jesus?” I ask the question because how we see matters! We discovered through Luke 7 :36-50 that two people encountered Jesus at the same dinner party, yet each saw him different. How each one saw Jesus influenced how they related to Him and how they related to him determined what they could receive from him! Do we see clearly? As we discovered last week faulty vision, faulty perspectives lead to unhealthy comparison, false assumptions, selfishness and an inability to receive.

This morning on Easter Sunday I want to return to the last week of Jesus’s life as he prepared to go the cross and examine that that question again and ask it a different way.

“What do you see? What do you see when you look at Jesus?”

As he entered Jerusalem Scripture records:

Some saw him as the son of David, others saw him as the one coming in the name of the Lord.

Some saw him as a prophet, others saw him as a fraud.

Some saw him as a miracle worker others saw him as out of his mind.

Some saw him as a teacher, others as a deceiver

One disciple saw him as the Christ...one simply saw him as a pay day

The Pharisees saw him as a blasphemer, Pilate saw him as a political liability.

But there were two men who were with Jesus in the final moments of His life. Two men who were there under the same sentence of death. Two men hung upon crosses of their own, one on each side of Jesus.

The two men each saw Jesus but only one man saw Him for who he really was...an Innocent King who was coming into His kingdom.

Two men suffered the same death that day...but only one of them received a promise of eternal life!

What you see when you look at Jesus matters!

What you see impacts how you relate

How you relate determines what you are open to receive!

Luke 23:32-43

“32 There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. 33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

And they divided His garments and cast lots. 35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.”

36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, 37 and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.”

38 And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”

40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” 42 Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

43 And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, **today you will be with Me in Paradise.**”

Whether you realize it or not each of us is represented in this story.

Each of us is a criminal.

Each of us own a debt we cannot repay.

Each of us is under the sentence of death!

Romans 3:23 “For ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

The punishment, the price for that sin is death.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages, (the price) of sin is death...BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

When Jesus hung upon that cross He did it for you! He did it for me. He did it to pay the price for our sin. He was and forever is INNOCENT.

2 Corinthians 5:21 explains that “... He (God the Father) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

What do you see when you look at Jesus?

Are you the criminal who looks and simply sees another man? Are you the criminal who can't see beyond himself? Or are you the criminal who looks at Jesus and see something more?

What Do You See?

As Jesus hung upon the cross...

He was innocent

He was sinless

He took your sin upon himself

He became the ransom for your life

He took the full measure of God's wrath and punishment for all sin upon himself

That you might experience the FULL MEASURE OF GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU!

That you might be with Him in Paradise!

Luke 23 goes on to tell us that for three hours he hung upon that cross. Suffering the pain, the shame, the rejection, the punishment that should have been ours and then he gave up his life for us.

They took his body down from that cross and they put it in a borrowed tomb. But that wasn't the end of the story!

**Because he was innocent
Because he was without sin
Death had no power over Him!**

While his body lay dead in that tomb. Jesus's spirit descended into Hell and **Colossians 2:15 describes how he "...disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."**

Revelation 1:18 says he took the keys to Hell and the Death. He has set you free from the power of sin and death.

And has gone to prepare a place for you in His kingdom!

John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

That is our future! That is our Hope!

IF YOU CAN SEE HIM FOR WHO HE IS!

So which criminal are you?

How do you see Jesus?

Conclusion: Altar Call...

If you have received Jesus today as your Lord and Savior **we have a special gift for you to help you grow in your faith!** No matter who you are you **BELONG** here. We are here to help you grow in your faith journey so that you might see Jesus as He is, **BELIEVE** upon him and that you might **BECOME** who He created you to be!