



Intro: Welcome to Rochester Assembly on this Easter, Resurrection Sunday!
I am so glad that spring is upon us! Two weeks ago we began a series entitled Gardens. AMAZING THINGS happen in Gardens!

Week 1: We examined how man was created to bear God's image, then put in a garden the place where they were he was to exercise dominion over creation, and live in a fruitful communal covenantal relationship with God and others.

Week 2: We examined how in the Garden the place designed for communal relationship with God, man sinned. He exalted his own will above God's, He stepped out of walking in the Spirit. He looked, reasoned and acted out of his flesh and in that act of disobedience and self-will sin entered in to the picture. That sin has passed down from Adam to all of us. Like Adam we all have sinned. We all have exalted our will above our Creators.

Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fallen short of the of glory of God

Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ.

God met Adam in his broken sinful state, issued a promise of Redemption, then he showed him the price of sin and a picture of what that Promise of Redemption would have to fulfill!.

God shed the blood of an animal to cover their sin. And then used the skin of that animal to make clothing for Adam and Eve. They had a daily reminder of the price of their disobedience. "The wages of sin is death!"

But Hebrews 10 :4 teaches us "*it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*"

It could only cover it. But there in that moment God was giving them a foretaste of something better that would come. God had made a promise! A Seed...an heir of the woman would come who would bring redemption and crush the serpents head. GOD himself would again provide for us a sacrifice which would be perfect. A promised seed whose shed blood would remove our sin.

That redemption would come through the submitting of his will even unto death to obey the will of God, His Father.

Hebrews 10::9-10 "...Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." **10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

Jesus paid the price once and for all for your sin and mine by laying down his life in our place!

He was whipped and beaten with rods.

He was punched and spit upon (Mat.26:67)

He was mocked and reviled with a crown of thorns put upon his head. (Mat. 27:28-31)

He was nailed through his hands and feet to a cross (Mat 27:35)

All this should have been ours! Yet, he willingly embraced our punishment for sin for us!

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."

Jesus did what Adam failed to do.

1. He submitted his will to the Father and bore His image perfectly

He didn't come to do his own will. He came to do the will of His father. When his flesh wanted to rise up and preserve itself, wanted to do its own thing, wanted to disobey, he took those thoughts, arguments and desires captive and forced them to be submissive to the Father's will.

Before going through that suffering that should have been ours, before going to that cross from which we should have hung, He went to the Garden of Gethsemane and there he tended and kept the garden. There he cultivated yet again that communal relationship with his Father, There he prayed 3 times Father if there is any other way let this cup pass from me, yet NOT MY WILL BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE!

In that act of submission when he died on that cross and descended into hell for you and I...

2. He exercised dominion over sin and the serpent.

Ephesians 4:7-9 proclaims He descended into hell and took captivity captive.

Colossians 2:15 declares "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

Revelation 1:18 Jesus himself testifies that He now has the keys to hell and death

HE exercised total authority over the devil, sin and death. Now because he has all power and authority. Because he has the keys to hell and death. He has the power to set you and I free for the sin that binds us. He has the power to set us free from the death sentence that hangs over us. Jesus came to set you free.

Band: "Friend in Jesus" (Verse 1 & Chorus)

Altar Call: Jesus came to...

3. He restores us unto communal fellowship with God...back to friendship

John 17 Jesus was praying that night for you. He desires you too have eternal life which is only found in “knowing the only true God and his Son Jesus Christ” (vs. 3)

He prayed that you would be restored unto fellowship and made one with him and The Father (vs. 20-24)

“He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” 2 Cor. 5:15

After suffering and dying on that cross in our place, After descending into hell and exercising dominion over all the power of the enemy...

The father called Jesus out of the grave...and that grave was in a garden!

When he came out of that grave resurrected and victorious He appeared to Mary Magdalene and she didn't recognize him because of his glory.

She thought he was THE GARDENER!

In the Garden Adam failed, but in this Garden Jesus Won. He tended and kept the garden of fellowship that Adam failed to tend and keep.

And the Father called him to come tome out of the grave and up here to be seated on the throne forever!

Jesus is now RISEN! He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. All power and authority is His and He has the power to give eternal life to all those who will come to him.

Today Jesus is calling us out of the tomb of our old sinful life.

He is calling us up to him to live a life of holiness.

Now He is calling us up unto the hope of eternal life but IT IS ONLY FOUND IN JESUS

Pray to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior (background vocals come on stage)

Conclusion: If you prayed that prayer today I'm gonna ask you to take out your phone right now and scan this QR code. We want to know that you entered into a relationship with Jesus.

Join us next week for the start of a new sermon series entitled “Walk it Out.”

Church would you stand and lets go out this morning celebrating Jesus!!!