

Easter 2020

4-12-20

Sunday Morning

1. This Easter as we look at the Easter story – I’m reminded of the question that Christ ask His disciples

Mark 8:27 Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?"

2. That is the question that every person has to answer
 - a. The right answer brings: hope, purpose, fulfillment

3. To fully answer that question you must start in Genesis
 - a. God created man & woman
 - b. They were the only 2 people who exist
 - c. He put them in a perfect environment – yet they both sinned
 - d. Because they both sinned – their children will be sinners – by birth
 - i. Horses only produce more horses
 - ii. Sinners can only produce more sinners
 - e. Therefore all humans are sinners
 - i. The Bible states that

Romans 3:10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

¹¹ THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

- f. Therefore all people are guilty before God

Romans 3:12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

Ecclesiastes 7:20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who *continually* does good and who never sins.

- g. The problem is – God is Holy He can’t allow sinners to remain in His presence

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

- h. God's economy doesn't allow Him to just "overlook" sin
 - i. God's law requires retribution for sins committed
- i. Therefore no one gets to heaven by being good – b/c everyone sins
- j. No one has ever fully kept God's law

Galatians 3:22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

- k. What is the solution to this dilemma?
 - l. In God's economy – blood is the required payment for sin

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

- m. Yet no man can use his blood for forgiveness b/c all men are guilty
- n. Someone not born a sinner is the only answer
 - i. Answer – the virgin birth
- o. Isaiah prophesied it

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and

forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

- p. Luke the medical doctor described it in his day

Luke 1:30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

³² "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

- q. So God produced a child in a virgin

- r. The Second Person of the Trinity became a man

- i. This is described in Gospel of John

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God.

³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

V.14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- ii. God the Son emptied Himself of His deity & became a man

Philippians 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and being made in the likeness of men*.

- s. So now there is a man on earth Who was not born a sinner
 - i. He never sinned

1 Peter 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

- t. Here is Someone Who can offer His blood for the sins of man
 - i. He can pay for the sins of the guilty

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be sin on our behalf*, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood of Christ*.

- u. Why would God send His Son to pay for man's sins?
 - i. Because He loves man that much

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

- v. So, Christ went to the cross & shed His blood & gave His life for us

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

- w. His blood paid for our sins
- x. But it is His death that sets man free from the bondage of sin
 - i. Man sins b/c he is a sinner & he really has no choice

- ii. A horse acts like a horse – b/c it is a horse
 - iii. The only one way a horse quits acting like a horse – by dying
 - iv. The only one way a sinner can quit acting like a sinner – by dying
 - y. When Christ died, every person who believes in Him, is identified w/ His death
 - z. This is accomplished by the Holy Spirit – baptizing us into His death
 - Romans 6:1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?
 - ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?
 - ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?
 - i. His death sets us free from the bondage of sin!
4. Today we celebrate His resurrection!
- a. Jesus Christ's body lay in the earth for 3 days
 - i. He has paid for our sins w/ His blood
 - ii. He has set us free from the bondage of sin
 - iii. But man had no power to live life victoriously – for God
5. It took tremendous power to raise Christ's dead body
- Ephesians 1:19** and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might*
 - ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,
 - i. Resurrection is not the same thing as resuscitation
 - ii. A lot of people have been resuscitated
 - iii. But resuscitated people die again
 - iv. Being resurrected means not dying again
- 1 Corinthians 15:55** "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

b. Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead to never die again

i. He is the only person until now Who has been resurrected

1 Timothy 6:16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

6. His resurrection gives us the power to live for Him

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

i. You can't live for God until after you become a believer

ii. You have no power until after you are saved

iii. Then He gives you the ability to live for Him not before you are saved

7. So, we come back to the original question

Mark 8:27 Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do people say that I am?"

²⁸ They told Him, saying, "John the Baptist; and others *say* Elijah; but others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ And He *continued* by questioning them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "**You are the Christ.**"

8. What does it mean – "You are the Christ"?

a. He is God come in the flesh

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

- b. He is the One too pure for death to keep Him

Acts 2:24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

- c. He is everything He says He is

Romans 1:4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

- d. Because He is the Christ – everyone who turns to Him will live

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

- e. If you are a believer this morning – live for Him w/ all your being

- i. He is worthy of that

- ii. Spend up your life, living for Him

Colossians 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

9. Salvation is easy to understand

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

10. He loves you

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11. But He will judge those who reject Him someday

Revelation 1:17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,
¹⁸ and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.