

# When a Story Becomes Life

April 1, 2018

## I Never Forget

### A) Resurrection Sunday or Easter

- 1) It is more than a story that encompasses three days
- 2) Most people have heard the story because this is one of the most attended Sundays of the year
- 3) To better understand why Jesus had to die on that cross, let's look at God's laws about forgiveness and restoration
- 4) **SLIDE** Scriptures
  - a) **Lev 17:11 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup>For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.
  - b) **Heb 9:22 (NIV)** <sup>22</sup>In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
- 5) **SLIDE** Why? To show us the truth about sin.
  - a) **Rom 6:23 (NIV)** <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  - b) Sin brings death
  - c) No sin is overlooked and every sin results in death and every sin must be atoned for.

### B) There can be no forgiveness without the shedding of blood!

- 1) This is a creational truth that helps us understand the nature of God.
- 2) Therefore, Christ had to die on that cross, or you and I could never be forgiven!
- 3) God knows this, and Jesus knew that
- 4) This brings us to an amazing scripture
- 5) **SLIDE John 18:4 (NIV)** <sup>4</sup> Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, **"Who is it you want?"**

- 6) Jesus knew He would be betrayed and abandoned by all who loved Him
- 7) He knew He would be rejected by the people He came to save
- 8) He knew that the people who would welcome Him one day would cry out for His crucifixion a few days later
- 9) He knew the torturous pain associated with His death
- 10) He knew He would be separated from His Father and descend into hell
- 11) He knew every single detail, but He still willingly went forward
- 12) This verse helps me to understand better Jesus' sweating blood as He asked the Father to take this cup from Him
- 13) Nevertheless, He accepted that cup because He knew that the shedding of His blood was the only way to defeat death and sin
- 14) When I was having back surgery, my doctor asked if I wanted to know what he was going to do
- 15) I said, "No," because I did not want to know the details
- 16) Imagine you get a word from God
  - a) You will be used to reach thousands around the world
  - b) Signs and wonders will follow you
  - c) You will be a light that will grow brighter and brighter
  - d) Would you be excited?
  - e) Now, imagine the Lord tells you all that is true, but...
  - f) You will first lose your job and become homeless
  - g) You will roam the streets and be abused for years.
  - h) You are abandoned by your friends and your family
  - i) Next, you will have a near-fatal accident
  - j) Your recovery will involve excruciating pain that lead you to extreme despair
  - k) Hope begins to fade, and doubt floods your mind
  - l) People will see you a hopeless case and ignore you
  - m) How are you going to make a difference in this world?
  - n) But, a time will come, when God will raise you up
  - o) Are you still excited?

### C) The Humanity and Love of Jesus

- 1) This verse makes the humanity of Jesus more real for me
- 2) It adds new understanding to the depth of His suffering
- 3) It demonstrates His unconditional love that would not be stopped
- 4) The resurrection story needs to become life

## II Deny the truth of the resurrection, and deny the truth of life itself

### A) Peter

- 1) Peter told Jesus that he would not leave Him
- 2) He told Jesus that he would die for Him
- 3) He told Jesus that even if all others fell away, he would not
- 4) Peter firmly believed that
- 5) Then....

B) **SLIDE** Luke 22:54 - 62 (NIV) <sup>54</sup>Then seizing [Jesus], [the Roman guards] led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup>But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. **SLIDE** <sup>56</sup>A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him." <sup>57</sup>But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said. <sup>58</sup>A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied. **SLIDE** <sup>59</sup>About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." <sup>60</sup>Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. **SLIDE** <sup>61</sup>The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." <sup>62</sup>And he went outside and wept bitterly.

- 1) We have all made mistakes.
- 2) Some were very major ones

- 3) But, most of the time, we had an opportunity, and still have an opportunity, to correct that mistake: to seek forgiveness, to try again, to make things right
  - 4) But, if you are Peter, how do you make this right when Jesus is dead?
  - 5) Have you ever felt that way?
  - 6) Have you ever known what Peter was feeling?
- C) For three days, Peter was dead inside
- 1) These three days represent our lives without Jesus
  - 2) Where is the hope?
  - 3) What do we do now?
  - 4) How do we start over?
  - 5) Who can make this better?
- D) **SLIDE** But the story does not end here.
- 1) **John 20:3 - 7 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup>So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup>Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **SLIDE** <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup>as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.
  - 2) Peter ran because if Jesus were truly alive, then he had another chance
  - 3) If Jesus were alive, then Peter would have new life.
  - 4) If Jesus were really alive, then we all have a chance at redemption
  - 5) If Jesus were really alive, then we all have a chance to be forgiven
  - 6) If Jesus were truly alive, we have hope
- E) What did Peter find?
- 1) An empty tomb
  - 2) The Lamb of God was, and still is, alive!

- 3) Peter had hope
  - 4) He could be forgiven.
  - 5) He had failed once, but now he had another chance.
  - 6) Peter was resurrected that day
  - 7) Jesus promises us that we will be raised with Him
  - 8) However, the resurrection power of Jesus is at work every day
  - 9) He resurrects hope
  - 10) He resurrects broken relationships
  - 11) He resurrects broken dreams
  - 12) He resurrects us from our failures
  - 13) He resurrects us from our mistakes, no matter how big they are
- F) Not a story
- 1) This is not a story; it is life
  - 2) When the story becomes life for us, we come alive