

Death Could Not Hold Him

Welcome

HAPPY EASTER CELEBRATION CHURCH! If you are new, Welcome. (would love to have a record of your attendance) We are taking free family photos for you inbetween services in our lobby, so would encourage you to join us back there if you have not already. Special Offering Walk through Books of the bible, This week, we are taking a break to fast forward several months and take a look at the reason for the season.

Introduction

There is nothing like this day! THERE IS NO DAY LIKE THIS DAY! AMEN? THERE IS NO SPORTING EVENT, THERE IS NO ELECTION, THERE IS NO HOLIDAY THAT COMPARES TO THIS DAY! BECAUSE IT IS ON THIS DAY, THAT WE CELEBRATE THAT WE HAVE A GOD THAT LOVES US. HE CAME TO EARTH TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST, YOU AND I, AND THAT HE PAID HIS VERY LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR US. AND MOST SPECIFICALLY THAT OUR SAVIOUR AND GOD OVERCAME DEATH ITSELF AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE! AND THROUGH JESUS, WE TOO ARE GIVEN THE POWER TO OVERCOME THE GRAVE, THIS IS THE DAY THAT WE CELEBRATE BEING ABLE TO SAY, "O DEATH WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH WHERE IS YOUR STING? AMEN? GOOD MORNING, AND WELCOME TO EASTER AT CELEBRATION CHURCH!

Jesus is alive, many of you are coming to hear that exact thing. And I can tell you, that never gets old! It sounds good every time it is preached, much like a wife whose husband tells her he loves her and is devoted to her—she never tires of hearing it and rejoices every time.

If you have your bible... At this point, Jesus has risen from the grave, And ascended into heaven, and has sent the holy spirit to the early church. This is a day called pentecost. Peter, filled with the holy spirit, is preaching to thousands of Jews, and gentiles, many of whom, just a few days ago were directly responsible for putting Jesus to death

Acts 2:22-23

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 25 For David says concerning him,

Context/Story.

For believers during the Old Covenant era, Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) was referred to simply as "the Day." It was the day, every year, that people would make sacrifices for their sins. Bulls, goats, birds, rams, would all die, as a substitute for sinful men and sinful women. These events for Christians found their final fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The Friday before each year is called Good Friday because that is the day we remember His substitutionary death. Easter is the day we celebrate His wondrous resurrection! These events are the fulfillment of Yom Kippur. Easter is the day we remember that Jesus was the final sacrifice for our sins. This makes Easter "the Day."

- People all around the world, brothers and sisters, in different nations, different cultures, different languages, all coming together today, to worship Jesus, and celebrate the resurrection.
- This morning I want to remind us of that story, and help us remember why Easter is the greatest holiday of the year.
- This morning we are going to take a look at God's Great Plan for Mankind, and compare that to Our Plan for ourselves.

God Had a Plan (Relationship)

1. Explain
 - a. God in eternity past, before there was anything else, **Existed. Father, Son, and Spirit, Existed in perfect unity.**
 - b. **Created.** Sun, Moon, Stars, Planets, Earth, Birds, Water Mountains, oceans, rivers, grass, leaves, plants, fruits, trees, animals, birds, fish, Mathematics, music, and as **the crowning work on His creation, HUMANS.**
 - i. He gave them everything they could ever need, **placed them in paradise.** Gave them dominion over all He had created.
 - ii. **God's plan was to live with them, and bless them. Love them and take care of them. God's desire was to make mankind, you and I, into objects of His affection, recipients of his blessings, and reflections of His glory.**
2. Prove
 - a. We see God's desire most clearly in Revelation 21
 - b. Revelation 21:2-4 - 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
3. Apply
 - a. God planned to be with us forever, He is a loving God, Good and perfect in every way, Merciful, and Just, Taking delight in blessing and providing joy to us. That was God's Plan. But...

We Had a Plan (Rebellion)

1. Explain
 - Adam and Eve, instead of gratefully serving and walking with God, desired to take His place. They chose disobedience, and started a long painful path of rebellion against Him. Mankind had a plan. It was to live apart from Him. To seek after other things to satisfy. It started with Adam and Eve, but has been

passed down from generation to generation, each generation becoming more twisted and broken than the last.

2. Prove

- a. Genesis 6:5 - The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- b. We are no different. Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

3. Apply

- a. Our plan was sin. Our plan was rebellion. Our plan was living apart from our creator. To spurn His love, and live for ourselves.
- b. We rejected the one who created us, and we sought out meaning and fulfillment in a hundred worthless things, Status, money, sex, boyfriends, girlfriends, Drugs, Alcohol, Video games, Knowledge.
- c. C.S. Lewis - We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.
- d. Our plan was to waste it all, squandering our lives on meaninglessness.
- e. But God's plan was better.

God's Plan (Mending)

1. Explain

- a. God was not content to leave mankind in darkness. And from the moment of the first rebellion from Adam and Eve, God set into motion a great rescue. A promised savior, who would one day reconcile and restore mankind back into right relationship with God.
- b. Thousands of years passed, God working actively in human history to set the stage for the savior, all the while reminding people of what was one day coming. Even through all the darkness, there were glimpses of light, hope on the horizon.
 - i. Promise to Adam and Eve - Genesis 3:15 (A better Adam is coming... one who will do what adam could not)
 - ii. Promise to Abraham - Genesis 22:18 (Through your offspring all the nations of the world will be blessed)
 - iii. Promise to Moses - Deuteronomy 18:15 (A better prophet is coming, one whom you will listen to)
 - iv. Promise to David - 1st Chronicles 17:11-14 (From your offspring I will raise up a King who will reign forever)
 - v. Promise to Isaiah - Isaiah 53 (A man of sorrows, bearing our sins, crushed for us. Despised and rejected. Offering for the sin of many.)
- c. Finally, God sent His son, Jesus - Perfect, Divine, Holy, The Second member of the trinity to earth. Born of a virgin, Coming in poverty not riches, coming in humility not glory, born in a stable, not a castle. To a teenage virgin.
 - i. Charles Spurgeon - He that made man, was made man

- d. Jesus had finally come, God himself had stepped down to reconcile God and men. The better Adam had come, The descendant of Abraham had come, the greater prophet was finally here, The true and better David who would reign forever, The only one who could fix what was broken. JESUS CHRIST.

Our Plan (Murder)

- a. Our plan was to murder him.
 - b. Jesus was betrayed by one of his closest followers, for 30 pieces of silver. Can you imagine? **God's greatest gift to mankind was sold for 30 pieces of silver.**
 - c. Beaten/scourging - ripping flesh off His body, deep tissue damage, many men do not survive this alone.
 - d. Forced to carry His Cross 100+lbs
 - e. Though he had done nothing to deserve it, Jesus was crucified between two thieves
 - i. Execution through the most sensitive nerve centers
 - f. While on the cross, Jesus said, "I thirst" and the soldiers who were around him took a sponge and thrust it up to him. These sponges were the same things that were used by soldiers in the field of battle to clean themselves after the go to the bathroom. And they would soak it in wine vinegar to disinfect it so they would not get infections. This is the greatest level of disgrace.
 - g. It is finished, The sky went dark, and Jesus Died. WE MURDERED GOD, WE KILLED HIM!
 - h. After He died He was punctured with a spear under the ribs so that water and blood flow from his side.
 - i. He died of a physical, emotional, and spiritual broken heart.
2. Prove
- a. John 3:19 - And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.
3. Apply
- a. Anyone who says, "were good people... Were not, We killed God. We are not good people.

God's Plan (Restoration)

- Explain
 - And it is easy to think that Jesus had lost at this point. He is dead on the cross. The plans of men have put God and His plans in the grave.
 - Vs 23 - This Jesus delivered up according to the definite plan, and foreknowledge of God you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
 - What happened to Jesus Christ was not a surprise to God. We don't know the future... (Sports betting, Stock Market, Political elections) But God does.
 - But God had a definite plan! In His foreknowledge, He knew and He planned this exact thing.

- God's plan was that Jesus would substitute himself, that he would die in our place, that he would suffer for our sin, that he would pay our debt. That our murder of God would be God's way of loving us!
 - God had a definite plan to use the greatest evil for the greatest good!
 - God had a definite plan to take our damnation and give us His salvation
 - God had a definite plan to take our sin and give us His righteousness
 - God had a definite plan to take our death and give us His Eternal Life.
 - God had a definite plan to make His enemies into His family.
 - Jesus took your place and gave us His place.
- Where Is Jesus Now? HE'S ALIVE!
 - Acts 2:32 - This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses
 - The grave could not contain Jesus Christ.
 - The founder of every other religion is dead. (Joseph Smith, Mohommed, Buddah) all of them are dead. Not ours, Jesus is alive. That's why I am so excited! We serve a Living God!
- Some of you might be thinking, how do we know its true?
 - Well we went through His death. He died on a Friday, Lashings, beatings, crucifixion, stabbing in the side. All happened on Friday.
 - On Sunday, He was eating breakfast. Walking around hugging people and telling stories.
 - Some of you may have heard, "Well they stole the body" They didn't.
 - But even if they did, how did they get it to eat breakfast?!
 - "Oh they stole the body, But I have a bigger question, "How did they get it to not be dead?"
 - Jesus was around for 40 days, His friends saw him, Peter saw Him, doubting Thomas saw Him.
 - 1st Corinthians 15:4-6 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.
 - He appeared to James, His little brother, and He appeared even to His enemies. (Saul of Tarsus)
- The redeemed of God are better off than Adam was.

Our Plan (Response)

- God's plan is for us to repent, turn from our sin, and follow Him in obedience. The only question that remains, will we repent, or will we run? Will we hide from God, like Adam and Eve did way back at the beginning? Or will we make God's plan for us, Our plan for us?
- Here is what this means...
 - Vs 36 - Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.

- Lord - This means that you are not in charge of your life, you are not the ultimate authority of your life, you are not going to live for your glory and the fame of your name. He is your King, He is your Lord, He rules and reigns over you.
- Christ - He alone is the anointed one, there is no one like Him, there is no one alongside him, there is none that compares to Him. He is the special one, unique, chosen one.

Invitation

- Vs 37 - Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
 - Are you cut to the heart? Maybe you are here and you finally realize that you have not been living with Jesus as your Lord and Christ. That you have not been listening to God, but you have been running from Him. Maybe you realize now that you have no faith, or weak faith, or faith that has been borrowed from your parents, or your siblings, or your spouse. Maybe you realize that you need a heart change. **What should we do?**
- Vs 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- Celebration Church - We really like people repenting and getting baptized do we not?
- What about your soul? Will you be saved? We want every person that can hear this message this morning to leave a christian. That means some of us here need to make a decision, Earnest, heartfelt, commitment, to follow Jesus. Here is How. Saved in your seat, Repent of sin, Turn to God, He is Lord, Not you. As we take a few moments and prepare for our final song of response, pray to God. And if you make that decision today to follow Him, I would ask that you come forward after service ends, so we can baptize you.

Pray



What is a Celebration Group?

Celebration groups are small gatherings of people that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study, shared burdens, prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Celebration groups are an essential expression of the mission of Celebration Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and live life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths and application of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

Each Celebration Group is unique, shaped by its neighborhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a weekly gathering in a residence that involves food, conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and service in the neighborhood. At the heart of each Celebration group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighborhood.

Why should I join a Celebration group?

The God of the Bible is a Trinitarian God who is one and three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God has made us in his image, which means we are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, Celebration groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.

How do I get connected to a community group?

The easiest way to get connected is on Sunday before or after the service, stop by the Welcome Table in the lobby. A Volunteer will personally walk you through the process and connect you to a group.

Or you can register for a group online at: celebrationmontrose.org/ministries/celebration-groups



LUKE 8:16-21 Light Vs Darkness

INTRODUCTION The gospel has the power to save and transform our lives but it must land on receptive hearts. We are reminded in the Parable of the Sower that if our hearts are not tender then the gospel will not take root.

DISCUSSION

- How is the gospel like a lamp?

EXPLANATION

- What is the light we are supposed to shine?
- How does hearing relate to hiding or displaying the light of the gospel?
- Why does Jesus take such a strong stance between his earthly family and His spiritual family?
- What does this passage tell us about the connection between faith and obedience?

APPLICATION

- In what ways can the gospel naturally be on display in your day-to-day life?
- How or when are you tempted to hide the gospel in your life?
- What can we do as a community to encourage one another to be a light to the world?

THE 5 W's (broken up into gendered groups)

- Word (How have you gotten into the word this week?)
- Wife/Husband/Family (How are you doing with your spouse/family?)
- Wellness (What are you doing to take care of yourself?)
- Work (How are you handling the work God has given you?)
- Witness (Who have you witnessed to, or prayed for this week?)