

JESUS IS...

Jesus Is...Alive – Easter Weekend – Message 7

Warm-up

Have you ever owed something, but someone else paid the cost for you? Share a time when a debt you owed was paid by someone else on your behalf.

Overview

In this lesson we are going to discuss the importance of Christ's Resurrection, examine why He had to die, and investigate why there is an empty tomb where He was once buried.

Word & Application

This weekend we celebrate the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Christ, known as Easter or Resurrection Day. Fulfilling a prophecy, Jesus died and rose from the grave, proving that He is the Son of God and a living Savior. Because of the Resurrection, our hope is in Jesus and the assurance that we can live eternally with Him. The Resurrection has major significance for Christians, so let's discover why.

I. Why did Jesus have to die?

Read John 3:14, Luke 24:44-46, and John 8:28. Not only was it prophesied that Jesus would die for us, but His death was a fulfillment of God's will. When you realize that Jesus' crucifixion and death were part of God's plan, how does that make you feel or what comes to mind?

○ The Debt

Read Hebrews 10:7-10. Because of sin, the human race owed a debt that could only be paid with blood. While the blood of animal sacrifices would never completely clear our debt, Jesus' innocent blood had the power to forgive our sin once for all. Describe the similarities between the animal sacrifices required under the Law and Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Discuss the differences.

- **The Cost** -- Read **John 1:29, 1 John 2:2, and 1 Peter 1:19**. Jesus paid the cost for our sin by dying on the cross. He gave His perfect blood and life to cleanse us and free us from sin. His blood was the only blood valuable enough to clear us of our debt forever. How does your response compare to Jesus' sacrifice? Would it be easy for you to die for someone who loved you? What about someone who hated you?

II. Why the empty tomb?

Read Revelation 1:18. In your own words, what does this verse about Jesus mean?

- **Resurrection vs. Resuscitation**
Read John 11:11. Jesus brought His friend Lazarus back from the dead. Humans have died and have been brought back to life. When humans are resuscitated, they will die again. Jesus is the only man who died, rose from the dead, and is still alive today!
Read Romans 6:3-5. How does the water baptism symbolize the Resurrection for us as Believers?
- **Christ's Resurrection**
Read Romans 6:8-11. We celebrate the resurrection of Christ because we have a living Savior who loves us and transforms us with the power of the Holy Spirit who resides inside of all Believers. Why is the resurrection important to Christians and their faith?

Life Challenge

How has today's message changed your thinking on the Resurrection of Jesus? What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about the importance of celebrating Easter?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank You for giving Your life for us. Thank You for paying a debt that we could never repay. Because of Your sacrifice, we can live a life of hope. Please remind us when we feel weak or despondent that Your power lives in us. Pray for the specific needs of the group.