



Being a Vessel of GOD

Introduction

Who knows what day today is? Yes, it is Sunday, but this Sunday is called Resurrection Sunday because about 2,000 years ago our Saviour was Crucified, died, and was buried BUT on the Third Day He rose again and so today we can say He is Risen, Our Lord has Risen from the Dead, He is Risen indeed!

Let us pray

The Gospels all have accounts of Jesus Resurrection and today I chose to read **Luke 24:1-12**, as it is a good summary of what happened on that First Resurrection Sunday morning.

Let us read **Luke 24:1-12**, *"¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' "⁸ Then they remembered his words. ⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened."*

This passage talks about the first day of the week, so when was the first day of the week in Jesus's time, it was a Sunday because the Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath, which was the last day of the week, or the 7th day and we all know that God rested on the seventh day and made it Holy.

Maybe you do not know why we as Christians, followers of Christ, have our Sabbath on a Sunday and the reason is because Jesus Christ rose on the First day of the Week and the early church also had the habit of meeting on the First day of the week which is why most Christian nations celebrate Sunday as their day of rest or Sabbath, this does not change the Jewish Sabbath which is Saturday and you are welcome to celebrate both days.

Early in the morning

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, the women were up early and preparing the spices and everything to go to embalm Jesus' body with these spices, but when they got to the tomb the stone was rolled away.

Now let us understand this for a moment, after Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pontius Pilot if he could have Jesus body removed from the Cross and be buried in his tomb.



The religious leaders remembered that Jesus taught that he would die and rise again, and they thought that His disciples might come and steal the body in the night and so they too went to Pontius Pilot to request that a large stone be rolled over the tomb entrance.

So, they took this huge stone, maybe three or four strong Roman soldiers had to push it closed, but there was a slot that this stone rolled into, so it was impossible for the four men to open it again without using some sort of tool or more manpower.

Also, they wanted to make sure Jesus body would not be stolen that they also sealed the stone and put wax seals to prove it had not been disturbed.

Now when the women came to the tomb the stone was rolled away and it was open, and Jesus' body was gone, and his burial cloth was neatly folded and placed on the place where He was laid.

Then while they are taking in all that has happened suddenly two angels appear, and ask them why they are looking for the living among the dead? He, Jesus Christ is RISEN as Jesus had told them and His disciples many times before.

We must believe

What amazes me is that in this passage, these women go to the Disciples and tell them that the Tomb is empty, and that Jesus Christ has Risen, and they do not believe them and run to the Tomb themselves and find He is gone!

However, this is all just a story in an old book called the Bible if you and I do not believe that Jesus Christ has truly Risen from the dead.

You might have heard or read the true story of Jesus Christ's life, His suffering, crucifixion and death on the Cross of Calvary and then that He Rose from the dead, but most people do not believe this, they have heard this story and it does not affect them in anyway, they think it is just a story, so folks law and they just do not believe any of this good news, and therefore are on their way to a Christless eternity because without Jesus' death on the Cross our sins are no longer forgiven and we have no hope.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary and was resurrected on the third day? Do you really believe this? Really, really?

Believing in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and accepting Him as your Lord and Saviour is fundamental to determine where you will spend eternity, and believing in what He did for us at the Cross of Calvary is fundamental to our belief.

Believing alone is not enough because **James 2:19** says *"¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"*.

So, it more than just believing in is also accepting and receiving Jesus Christ as our Saviour and full payment for our sin. **John 1:12-13** says it like this *"¹² But as many as received Him, to them*



He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

What Jesus has done for us

Today I want to tell you about some of the things that Jesus Christ did for you and me, our theme this Easter is being a Vessel of God but in order to be a vessel you need to come through the WAY and you can only come through the WAY if you know what Jesus Christ did for you at Calvary, so let me tell a few things that He did.

I want you to understand why you need Jesus Christ, why you and only you alone can make that decision and some of what He did for you by dying on the Cross of Calvary, and not only you but the entire human race from Adam to the last person to be born on this earth, Jesus Christ paid the full price for our SIN!

JUSTIFICATION

One of the most important things that Jesus did for us by dying on the Cross of Calvary is JUSTIFICATION, He justified us.

Romans 5:1-2 says *"¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, [²] we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God"*

When you see the word JUSTIFICATION think of just as if I have never sinned, Jesus Christ's death on the Cross of Calvary made me just as if I have never sinned.

And as Romans 5 says we are justified by FAITH, faith in what? Faith in the finished work of the Cross, when Jesus Christ said it is finished, He was saying that the SIN debt for all of mankind was paid in full, He has paid that full price and made every person from Adam to the final person to be born, just as if they have never sinned.

And most important we have PEACE with God, God's Righteousness and Holiness have been restored to us because the in perfection of our sin and our unholiness has been taken away and we can enter the very presence of God.

That is the reason why before Jesus Christ died on Calvary those righteous people like Abraham, David and many others were not in Heaven but a place called Paradise, when Jesus Christ died and rose again, and He placed His Blood on the Mercy seat in Heaven He paid the price with His precious Blood for all sin and for that moment all those in Paradise could come into Heaven, into the presence of God because all their sin was dealt with by Jesus Christ's sacrifice.

SANCTIFICATION

When you see the word SANCTIFICATION then think of the word Holiness, the Bible is clear, **Hebrews 12:14** – *"¹⁴ Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:"*

1 Peter 1:15-16 - *"¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*



Jesus Christ by His death and Resurrection went into Heaven and presented His own Blood on the Mercy Seat in the temple in Heaven see **Hebrews 9:11-15** and made presented His Blood on the Mercy Seat and removed the stain of sin from our lives and SANCTIFIED us or made us Holy and acceptable with God.

His Blood has washed us whiter than snow and His Blood has made us Holy so that we can stand in the presence of God.

Holiness also means to be set apart for a specific purpose, you and I have been set apart for His plan and purpose. God has a plan for your life – **Jeremiah 29:11-14** and He has a race for each of us to run for Him **1 Corinthians 9:24** and **Hebrews 12:1-2**.

Matthew 22:14 say *"...Many are called by few are chosen..."*, when you choose to follow Jesus, it is not you are choosing Him, but He is choosing you to serve Him.

We need to start living holy lives, stop sinning, stop doing the old things you did, run from sin and seek His will for your life, you have been taken from the mud, washed clean, had your old dirty clothes removed and a new white garment put on, now start to live your life for Him and to honour Him, not those around you but live your life for Him.

Give up your old way of life, give up the things that you once did, turn to Him and follow Him in all you do.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

When you see the word RIGTHEOUS or RIGHTEOUSNESS then think of the right to stand in the presence of God

2 Corinthians 5:21 – *"²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

Romans 3:21-26 – *"²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."*

Jesus Christ died on the Cross of Calvary to take away you sin and make you righteous or in right standing with God and the Law has no effect on us because Jesus Christ fulfils every requirement the law had, and He set us free from both the law and sin because 1 Corinthians 15:





VICTORY OVER DEATH

1 Corinthians 15:56-57b - *"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Jesus Christ death has given us victory over death because He fulfilled the just requirements of the Law and thereby taking away the strength of sin and He paid the price for sin therefore taking away the sting of death so with the sting, sin, and the power/strength the Law taken away we do not have to fear death because we have eternal life.

There is so much more I can talk about that Jesus did on the Cross of Calvary like Mercy, Grace, healing, forgiveness, the power to live the Christian life and so much more but because of time I must stop here.

Conclusion

As I wrap this message up, the theme of this weekend has been to be a Vessel of God and so I want to talk just a little on this and how this relates to my message today before I close.

If you want to do anything in God Kingdom then lay your life down, lay your life down, submit to Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Lord and Saviour, **John 1:12**, *"...to as many as received Him, He gave the RIGHT to be called son and daughter of God..."*

- 1) You want to be a Son or Daughter of the Most High God, receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour and receive the full payment for your sin through Jesus Christ death on the Cross of Calvary.
- 2) Then turn away from your old life, the old way you did things and start doing things God's way. Be humble, be kind, be gentle, have self-control – read **Galatians 5:22-26** and see what fruits a child of God should have and while you are there read the fruits of an enemy of God, **Galatians 5:19-21**, and if you see them in your life, repent and change your ways.
- 3) Then get into the Word of God, start to read the Word of God daily, spend time with God in prayer and His Word, and allow His Word to change your mind, **Romans 12:1-2**, and start to do what the Word says, **James 1:21-25**. Start to memorise select verse or portions of scripture.

Start a plan to read through your Bible at least once a year.

- 4) As you get stronger in the Word of God, start to get involved with your church and the various ministries within the church and work in God Kingdom as a servant of God.
- 5) Live your life as God's son or daughter, stay away from any sin, run away and love people, server people and show people the way to Jesus Christ, remember everyone is watching you and you need to be Jesus to those around you because they want to see Jesus in your first before they will accept Jesus for themselves.

**Let's pray...**

There are many people here today and you know all the Bible stories, maybe you can even quote a few verses, maybe you are a church member, leader, elder or pastor or maybe you just came today to visit but God has a plan for your life, God has an appointment with you today and He is saying, Here I am, I have sent you My Only Son Jesus Christ to die for your sin and to make you right with Me and today you have hear my plan for your life, will you respond?

The only way to GOD is Jesus Christ, **John 14:6** *"...I am the WAY the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but through Me..."*, there is no other way, there is no other god, there is nothing to get to God but through Jesus Christ. God will be reconciled with you when you come through the only Way that is Jesus Christ , **2 Corinthians 5:18** *"¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,"*

I want us all to bow our heads. Who want to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour this Resurrection Sunday, raise your hands and I will pray a prayer for you to be reconciled with God.

Jesus Christ paid the price for your sin, no one else claimed to do this, Jesus Christ Himself died for you, no one else has, and He is asking you to come to God through Him the only Way to God, if that is you, please put up your hand.

If you are a pastor or church leader or someone important, or maybe you are with your friends or family, your spouse and you are afraid, do not worry them or what they or other people will say, it is you who is going to Hell not them, it is you that will need to give an account to God of your life when you die not them.

If you have raised your hand let us stand and received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Pray after me....