**RISEN**

**Part 3**

**“When Jesus Was Crucified”**

**Mark 15:15-20;25-39 “Pilate wanted to please the people, so he set Barabbas free for them. And he told the soldiers to beat Jesus with whips. Then he handed him over to the soldiers to be killed on a cross. 16 Pilate’s soldiers took Jesus into the governor’s palace (called the Praetorium). They called all the other soldiers together. 17 They put a purple robe on Jesus, made a crown from thorny branches, and put it on his head. 18 Then they began shouting, “Welcome, king of the Jews!” 19 They kept on beating his head with a stick and spitting on him. Then they bowed down on their knees and pretended to honor him as a king. 20 After they finished making fun of him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him out of the palace to be killed on a cross.”**

**“25 It was nine o’clock in the morning when they nailed Jesus to the cross. 26 There was a sign with the charge against him written on it. It said, “ the king of the jews.” 27 They also nailed two criminals to crosses beside Jesus—one on the right and the other on the left. 29 People walked by and said bad things to Jesus. They shook their heads and said, “You said you could destroy the Temple and build it again in three days. 30 So save yourself! Come down from that cross!” 31 The leading priests and the teachers of the law were also there. They made fun of Jesus the same as the other people did. They said to each other, “He saved others, but he can’t save himself! 32 If he is really the Messiah, the king of Israel, he should come down from the cross now. When we see this, then we will believe in him.” The criminals on the crosses beside Jesus also said bad things to him.**

**33 At noon the whole country became dark. This darkness continued until three o’clock. 34 At three o’clock Jesus cried out loudly, *“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani.”* This means “My God, my God, why have you left me alone?” 35 Some of the people standing there heard this. They said, “Listen! He is calling Elijah.” 36 One man there ran and got a sponge. He filled the sponge with sour wine and tied it to a stick. Then he used the stick to give the sponge to Jesus to get a drink from it. The man said, “We should wait now and see if Elijah will come to take him down from the cross.” 37 Then Jesus cried out loudly and died. 38 When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces. The tear started at the top and tore all the way to the bottom. 39 The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw what happened when Jesus died. The officer said, “This man really was the Son of God!” (ERV)**

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**This is the Bible’s account of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.**

**He was crucified at 9 o’clock in the morning on Good Friday, 5 days after the first Palm Sunday—which we are celebrating today.**

**The crucifixion of Jesus was the ground zero of history.**

**In the six grueling hours between 9 o’clock in the morning when Jesus was crucified, and 3 in the afternoon when He died, the ancient battle between good and evil reached its climax!**

**The Crucifixion of Jesus is the central focus of the entire Bible.**

**The OT looks forward to the crucifixion of Christ, while the NT looks back on the crucifixion of Christ.**

**All the 39 OT books of sacrifices, feasts, kings, prophets, and stories *illustrate and anticipate* the crucifixion of Christ....**

**And the 29 books of the NT *narrate, celebrate, and elaborate* on the crucifixion of Christ.**

**At the Cross of Christ, a once for all sacrifice was made for the souls of men, epic in its scope, eternal in its reach.**

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**So what exactly did happen on the Cross of Christ? And what does it mean for us today?**

**First, on the Cross:**

1. **Jesus took our sin and guilt away**

**In the OT, there’s a vivid illustration of what Jesus did for us.**

**As the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, God commanded Aaron the High Priest to confess all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—over the head of a goat.**

**He was then commanded to take the goat to the edge of the wilderness and allow him to walk away, figuratively carrying away all their sins to a remote place, never to return.**

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**This is what Jesus did on the Cross!**

**Our sins were placed on Him....As Isaiah said, “The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all!” (53:6 NIV)**

**Peter wrote, “and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed” (1 Pet 2:24 NASB).**

**And on the Cross He carried them away forever!**

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**The fancy word for what He did is *EXPIATION*.**

**EXPIATION means the literal removal of our sin and guilt by putting an end to it.**

**Christ’s death removed—EXPIATED, took away forever—our sin and guilt.**

**This is why John the Baptist said when he first saw Jesus walking toward him, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).**

**Jesus takes away our sins!**

**On the Cross He carried our sin away forever!**

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**—And it gets better! On the Cross, He placed His righteousness on us!**

**You see, on the Cross an incredible trade off took place—Our sin was placed *ON CHRIST*, and His righteousness was placed *ON US*!**

**“For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21 NKJV).**

**The Message: “God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.”**

**So on the Cross, our sins were placed on Him, and His righteousness in turn was placed on us!**

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**Then SECONDLY, on the Cross:**

**B. Jesus RECONCILED us to God**

**“Where *EXPIATION* is about the removal of our sins, *RECONCILIATION* is about the removal of our *ALIENATION* from God.**

**The dictionary definition of reconciliation is simply, “to restore to friendship or harmony.”**

**But the reconciliation brought about by Jesus’ death on the Cross is the greatest reconciliation of all time!**

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**The Bible says that because of our sins, we were *ALIENATED—*SEPARATED—from God.**

**And our alienation from God was total and complete—the relationship was thoroughly destroyed, shattered, and broken by sin.**

**And it wasn’t just broken, the Bible goes so far as to say we were enemies of His!**

**Listen to how the Bible describes our relationship with God before we were saved: “Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior” (Col. 1:21 NIV).**

**I was God’s enemy? That’s what it says!**

**And the word for “ENEMY” is very strong....It means, “Someone who is openly hostile, a personal enemy, an enemy combatant.”**

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**An enemy combatant? You have to be kidding me! How could that be?**

**Well, the Bible says we were *enemies* because:**

**Our sinful lifestyles made us God’s enemies. “All of us used to live...following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else” (Eph. 2:3 NLT).**

**Our sinful thinking made us God’s enemies. We were “enemies in our minds” Paul wrote.**

**Our open rebellion against His will and ways made us God’s enemies. Isaiah writes, “We have turned, every one, to his own way.” (Not HIS way, our OWN way!)**

**And our love for this fallen, ungodly world also made us God’s enemies...We embraced this fallen world’s values, morals, ethics, and rebellion against God, and that made us His enemy!**

**James wrote, “Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God?“ (4:4 NLT)**

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**But good news!**

**Jesus’s death on the Cross restored our broken, alienated relationship with God and *RECONCILED* us to Him!**

**“For if while we were enemies, we were *reconciled to God through the death of his Son*, much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.” (Romans 5:10 NASB)**

**I look at it this way:**

**The Cross reaches out horizontally as if God is saying, “Let me embrace you through My Son!”**

**And when we respond to His call, the same Cross points upward as if to say, “Now let me take you up and join your hand to God’s hand in reconciliation!”**

**So Jesus’ death on the Cross brought EXPIATION by removing our sin and guilt away forever, and it brought RECONCILIATION by healing our broken relationship with God, enabling us to be His children!**

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**What does that mean for us today?**

**If you DON’T know Jesus, it means His hand is reaching out to you this very moment to receive His offer of salvation.**

**If you DO know Jesus it means, as Easter Sunday approaches, we should be deeply thankful for what He did on our behalf! LET’S PRAY**