

March/April
2015

Rehoboth Jail & Prison Ministry Newsletter

Changing Lives From the Inside Out

Resurrection Sunday The Day the Lord Rose

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Each year we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But do we really take His death as serious - as it is for individuals lost forever in sin? If it were not for God's plan of salvation, devised before creation, where would we be? Let's think about salvation and some of the underlying details that most people over look. We think of Jesus preaching repentance to the Jews, we think of his betrayal, denial, and crucifixion as we should. We are reminded He died for our sins and paid a debt we could never repay. But do we look back at how long this plan was in place and to what lengths God went to show man his need to follow God and man's need for total submission and obedience to God. In the beginning in the garden there was one rule and man choose, in his

perfect state, to rebel against that one rule. God gives man the entire history of the Bible to show what ALWAYS happens when man chooses to rebel against God. By the way disobedience is the same as rebellion.

Look at all of the saints of old as they walked in their way and their will and the constant consequences they faced as a result. Compare that to when a man totally sold out to God and in obedience walked with God.

Gen. 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he [was] not; for God took him. **Gen. 6:9** These [are] the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man [and] perfect in his generations, [and] Noah walked with God. **James 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God,

and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Abram's belief was followed up with acting on what he believed God to be saying.

God created man knowing man would fall short, only because man would fail to follow God's Word. God's plan from the beginning was to show man no matter how long he lived, 969 years or much shorter, outside of God's will man can do no good thing to earn salvation or do anything God will consider good. So as we look at this wonderful celebration, of Jesus' resurrection lets look back in time and know why God has allowed man to live so long in this sinful world. It is to prove His will for man is the only way to a sanctified life.

What does the cross mean to you personally?

1 Cor. 1:18-27 "18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where [is] the wise? where [is] the scribe? where [is] the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the

world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is

wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;"

The Value of Waiting

Our modern society often depreciates the value of waiting and watching. We expect everything right away: instant food, instant credit, fast transportation, hot tap water and many other things, "Right now."

When we insist on trying to do things our own way and rush ahead to try and solve our own problems, we can miss God's answer for our needs and his timing for the best outcome. We also lose the opportunity to experience longing. Longing gives us the opportunity to feel our need for the thing we desire and our dependence on God to supply our needs.

Waiting allows us to truly experi-

ence the joy of receiving and gratitude towards God which we might not have felt if that which we were waiting for had been given to us immediately.

The disciples had to wait after the crucifixion; as often happens with many of us, God placed them in a situation where they had no choice but to wait. They had no chance to try their own ways of making things better. They were hiding from the officials as they feared they could be arrested as followers of Jesus, and they couldn't leave town, as it was the Passover, and travel was not allowed on the Sabbath. They could

just only hide and weep and pray. And as always seems to be the case when one gives their problems to God instead of to man's ways the answer was right on time, totally unexpected and completely different than anything they could have imagined. And so amazing, that they had to acknowledge that it was God at work.



Resurrection Week Bible Reading Plan - The Prophecies

Jesus fulfilled all of the prophecies written about him in the Old Testament, including those about his crucifixion and resurrection. This resurrection week Bible study covers Jesus' final week as described in prophesy. [The events listed are in rough, not precise chronological order.]

Monday's Reading: Betrayal by friend for 30 pieces, disciples scattered - Ps. 41:9, Zech. 11:12, Is. 53:6

Tuesday: Prayer of Gethsemane, false witnesses, Jesus remains silent - Ps. 27:12, Ps. 35:11, Is. 53:7

Wednesday: Beaten, use of rod, scorned, mocked, buried - Micah 5:1, Is. 50:6, Ps. 22:6-8, Ps. 109:25

Thursday: Jesus pierced, but no broken bones - Ps. 22:16, Zech. 12:10, Numbers 9:12, Ex. 12:46, Ps. 34:20

Friday: Betrayal money thrown to the

potter, died among criminals, clothed divided, vinegar and gall, forsaken of God - Zech. 11:13, Is. 53:12, Ps. 22:18, Ps. 69:21, Ps. 22:1

Saturday: Jesus' body taken down, buried with the rich, died not for himself, but for all - Deut. 21:23, Is. 53:9, Is. 53:5,8

Sunday: Resurrection - Ps. 16:9-10, Jonah 2:6, Ps. 49:9,15, Job 33:18,28, Ps. 30:3

Why did Judas Throw the Money?

Matt. 27:5 "And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple,..."

First, Judas threw the money because it had been prophesied that he would. Zech. 11:13 "And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter:" Zechariah was told to literally throw it to the potter, rather than give it, as a type of prophetic forerunner of Judas' actions.

The Hebrew word for temple used

in Matt. 27:5 is "naos," which refers to the inner sanctuary part of the temple where only the priests were allowed to enter. Judas, like any other ordinary Israelite, wasn't allowed past a certain point, so he threw it from there, well into the priestly area, out of reach of any passersby, so that the priests would be the ones forced to pick it up or let it lie there as a witness against them. He couldn't put it into the donation box for the same

reason the priests couldn't - because it was unclean blood money. (Mt. 27:6)

So the unclean money thrown into the clean priestly part of the temple was used for the purchase of burial grounds for strangers because graves were ritually unclean.

Entire account: Matthew 27:3-10.

Where Was Everybody?

We always look at the cross through the disciples eyes, but this is how the people in Jerusalem would have experienced it.

Jesus was followed by crowds wherever he went. Many people believed him to be a prophet or even the Messiah. So when Jesus was crucified, why didn't they protest, as they did frequently during those times?

Most of the men and older boys the city were at the temple, hanging on to their skittish Passover lambs and standing in long lines: first a line to change their money if they hadn't done that already, then another line to buy the lamb, and finally another line to wait their turn to have their lamb sacrificed.

As they waited they talked. About the unpopular Barabbas who was to be executed that day. About Jesus who had been teaching at the temple every day that week, except the day before. Many felt that if he was truly the Messiah, he would arrive soon and make a public announcement at the temple; he had ridden in on a donkey as a sign, surely if there was to be a proclamation, it would be on Passover day when everyone was gathered.

The women, meanwhile, were at home; cleaning the house, carefully removing every last trace of leaven, and baking all those holiday treats and side dishes that were traditionally served with the lamb. Those too old to help were keeping an eye on the younger children, indoors that day, because the crucifixion procession of Barabbas was expected to go by.

But when the soldiers came through, it was Jesus instead of Barabbas.

Some of the women left their holiday cooking and ran out into the street among the following crowd of bystanders crying in frustration (Lk. 23:27) because there was nothing they could do against the armed Roman soldiers. They could only wait to tell their husbands what they had seen when the men got home from the temple with their lambs.

A little while later, the sky went dark. Perhaps torch light was needed to continue the sacrifice of the lambs at the temple and lamps lighted in the houses. Then there was a great earthquake. Josephus tells us that this earthquake was notable for the numbers of animals that were killed throughout the area as their sheds collapsed. This is because they were put in their stalls to get their Sabbath rest during the holiday. Josephus also tells us that this earthquake snapped in half the lintel of the doorway leading into the Holy of Holies, which caused the curtain attached to it to be ripped from top to bottom as it fell. There were still large crowds of men in the temple to witness this event. They must have wondered why God would allow darkness and earthquake, and the sight of the Holy of Holies open to everyone on Passover of all days; it would have been quite unnerving.

When the men arrived home with their lambs, they would have heard the sad tale of Jesus' passage to Golgotha from their families. The holiday foods, in many cases, may have been on the floor, but by a great blessing, no one's cooking fire got out of control enough to cause a fire in the city. Large numbers of faithful people may have considered whether all these events were linked to the death of Jesus.

Over the next fifty days many of the holiday tourists, some who had travelled vast distances for a once in a lifetime Passover at the temple in Jerusalem, remained to celebrate Pentecost also. As the cleanup from the earthquake continued, and people considered in their hearts the things they had seen, news circulated throughout the city. News that one of Jesus' disciples had betrayed him for money and committed suicide, that the blood money may have come from someone high up in the Sanhedrin, that people known to have died had appeared to their families in the city (In some cases there may have been more than the two required witnesses needed to verify the truth of a story.), that the temple guards at the tomb of Jesus had fallen asleep and that his disciples had stolen his body, and yet the guards were not punished for this dereliction of duty. That last also hinted that someone higher up was protecting them.

These events were still in the minds of people weeks later when Peter preached at Pentecost which is why 3000 people converted immediately and more were added to their number every day; because they knew that after seeing so many signs they would be without excuse.



MARCH 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Red numbers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sunday are days I ministry Dillwyn and Buckingham prisons. The blue number is the Thursdays we pass out food at the food pantry in Schuyler. The orange numbers are the days I preach at another church. The green numbers are the days we have the MOM Monthly Outreach Meal.

Mission Statement

To establish and strengthen the Christian life of inmates and their families by providing opportunities for worship, instruction, nurturing of children, fellowship, service, mutual aid, brotherly counsel, and to establish and strengthen the Christian life of evangelism. To bring the Gospel to the unsaved and to lead them to faith in Christ followed by membership in the body of Christ

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Offerings & Donations are tax deductible since Rehoboth is a non-profit organization. They can be sent to the address below and will be used to further the Jail & Prison Ministry.

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Growing in the Lord comes through trials - not the easy times.

It is a funny thing bringing the truth of God's Word to people who do not want to hear the truth. A minister can spend weeks or months on a subject to make a point very clear and someone will take the smallest item in the Bible study and base a disagreement on that point and miss the entire meaning of the study. I am sure some do it because they are contrary to the Word, others because they just want to oppose what is being taught, saying here is another way to look at this. It is very frustrating, but a learning experience for a minister to keep him humble.

What I have to do in these cases is think of Jesus teaching the absolute truth and

receiving ridicule and contempt from the people He loved. I am certainly not comparing the teaching by today's ministers or myself to Jesus' absolute true teaching, just the way people react to the truth.

It is a great feeling when one spends months or years teaching and someone who has disagreed on certain topics finally sees it clearly through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I thank God for the strong assurance that He is leading me in my subject matter. It would be so much easier to just touch on milk and noncontroversial subjects and justify it by saying that everyone seems happy when they leave the service. This way I would not have to deal with

very unkind letters, some even very hateful ones, accusing me of false teaching and even going to the administration and trying to get me taken off of the volunteer list. Of course, the administration was not concerned about my teaching, which may not be all that good, but the chaplain had sat in on my teaching and heard many positive comments about the services from other men so he verified the inmates accusations against me were totally false.

I am thankful that when something like that happens I give pause to pray and seek God for guidance as to if there is any validity in the complaint. However, I am also thankful that through the

anointing of the Holy Spirit and through God channeling his love through me I am able to see this as persecution of truth and not exert the anger I used to feel toward this kind of opposition, feeling it was personal. I have grown a lot in the years of ministering in the jails and prisons, but I have a long way to go, both in teaching skills and in my ability to take criticism and persecution. I need to count it all joy.

James 1:2-4 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.