

A Journey with Christ the Messiah It's Friday, but Sunday is Coming

John 18:1-12; 19:1-18,28-30

INTRODUCTION:

In order to continue with the theme of "***A Journey with Christ the Messiah***", we are now in the final week of Christ. Last week we looked Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Today we are going to examine His death on the cross. Next week, Lord willing, we will see the importance of His resurrection. It will be a time of highs and lows for everyone despite what each one's beliefs may have been concerning Jesus.

Through this journey, our goal has been to fully understand that Jesus WAS Who He claimed to be, the Messiah, the Son of God and the Son of man. By examining the prophecies and the consistency and accuracy of the scripture, it becomes apparent that the Bible HAS to be the inspired Word of God.

Let's continue the journey!

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 18:1-12, 19:1-18,28-30 (NASB)

18 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. ² Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. ³ Judas then, having received the *Roman* cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, *came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and *said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵ They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He *said to them, "I am *He*." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. ⁶ So when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Therefore He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am *He*; so if you seek Me, let these go their way," ⁹ to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one." ¹⁰ Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

¹² So the *Roman* cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him,

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¹⁹ Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; ³ and they *began* to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps *in the face*. ⁴ Pilate

came out again and *said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.”⁵ Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. *Pilate* *said to them, “Behold, the Man!”⁶ So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, “Crucify, crucify!” Pilate *said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.”⁷ The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out *to be* the Son of God.”

⁸ Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was *even* more afraid;⁹ and he entered into the Praetorium again and *said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ So Pilate *said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”¹¹ Jesus answered, **“You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above;** for this reason he who delivered Me to you has *the* greater sin.”¹² As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying, “If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out *to be* a king opposes Caesar.”

¹³ Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.¹⁴ Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he *said to the Jews, “Behold, your King!”¹⁵ So they cried out, “Away with *Him*, away with *Him*, crucify Him!” Pilate *said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

The Crucifixion

¹⁶ So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified.

¹⁷ They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.¹⁸ There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between.

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²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, *said, “I am thirsty.”²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon *a branch of* hyssop and brought it up to His mouth.³⁰ Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

As we prepare to continue this journey, let's bow in a word of prayer.

Prayer

There have been many **DARK DAYS** in history.

.....It was a **DARK DAY** when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden and introduced sin into this world.

.....It was a **DARK DAY** when God closed the door on **THE ARK** sealing the doom of every unrepentant man and woman on earth to die in a **“watery grave.”**

.....It was a **DARK DAY** when **the wicked Roman Emperor Nero** ordered the merciless slaughter of thousands upon thousands of innocent Christians, whom he blamed for setting ROME on fire around 67 AD.

.....It was a **DARK DAY** when **the TITANIC** sank in the icy waters of the Atlantic.

.....It was a **DARK DAY** when **Adolph Hitler** ordered the extermination of over **6 million Jews** in his attempt to create a **superior race**.

.....It was a **DARK DAY** when **PRAYER** was removed from our public schools in 1963.

.....It was a **DARK DAY** when the **SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER** exploded in 1986.

.....It was a **DARK DAY** when the **ISLAMIC TERRORIST GROUP AL-QAEDA** attacked the Twin Towers in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

These were all very DARK DAYS in history!

But, without a doubt, the darkest day in all of history was the FRIDAY we executed the innocent and sinless Son of God!

On that horrible day nearly 2000 years ago, Jesus, the Messiah, the only begotten Son of God, the only perfect man, died on the cross of Calvary. Satan thought that he had won the victory. Surely he had destroyed the Son of God. Finally he had disproved the prophecy God had uttered in the Garden. The one who was to crush his head had been destroyed.

But that was Friday and he was going to learn that His act of crucifying Jesus fit right into God's plan. Instead of destroying the Son of God, he had actually caused Jesus to provide a means of salvation for the human race that he thought he had cleverly won for himself.

Satan had only bruised Christ's heal and now Christ **had** crushed Satan's head. This was surely the darkest, yet at the same time the greatest day mankind has ever experienced. As a result of what will take place within the next few hours, the blood of the Son of God shall be shed for the remission of the sins of every man, woman and child that will ever live.

Make no mistake, although the resurrection was necessary, it was the crucifixion where Jesus accomplished what He had come to earth to do. That was to provide for the atonement of our sins. When He cried "It is Finished" on the cross, Jesus was proclaiming that His work on earth was finally complete and He had been able to achieve it flawlessly.

BODY:

I entitled my sermon after a famous sermon preached by a modern day white liberal minister named Tony Campolo.

Following are portions of Tony's famous sermon as he preached it.

Here are some of Tony's words.

Once a year on **Good Friday** we have a "**preach off**" in my church. White folks do not know what it is. It is where you take 5 or 6 preachers who preach back to back to see who is best.

Tony said "Of course, you never say that!"

(Hold your hands up toward God) You say that it is for the glory of God!

It was my turn and I don't want to brag. But I was **gooooood!**

I was beginning to preach and the deacons were saying "PREACH ON BROTHER" and the women were yelling "WELL" and the men were yelling "KEEP GOING" and I feed on those things. I kept getting better and better and better.

When I set down my pastor said **(Looking Left)** "You did all right! You DID all right!"

(Looking Right) And I said, "You are next, Pastor. You going to be able to top that?"

(Looking Left and in a black man's voice) He just laughed and said "Well son. Sit back. Cause the old man is going to do you in!"

I didn't think he could pull it off, but for the next hour **HE did me in! I couldn't believe it!** He did me in with one line that he kept repeating over and over and over.

It's Friday, But Sunday is coming!

It didn't sound like much when he started. He started off in low gear. It took him about five minutes to get into high gear.

Friday, he said, Jesus was dead on the cross.

But that was because it was Friday, Sunday's coming.

And some women in the crowd said "**Well**".

And somebody yelled "**Keep Going, Keep Going**".

It's Friday.

Jesus is Praying.

Peter is sleeping.

Judas is betraying.

The disciples are hiding
and Peter's denying that he knows the Lord.
But they don't know that **Sunday is a-coming.**

Someone yelled "**Preach On Brother!**"

And that's all he needed. He took off!

But I am here to give you the good news!

It's only Friiidaaaaay! (Pause) **Sunday is coming!**

Yeah. You are catching on! We've got to spread the good news!

Friday. Friday. It's Friday.

The Romans scourge my Jesus.

And spit into His face.

They mock Him in a scarlet robe.

And press on Him a crown of thorns.

Jesus is dragging His cross to Calvary.
His blood is dripping.

His body stumbling.
And He is nailed to the cross.
But you see, it is only Friday, Sunday's coming.

It's Friday.

The world is winning.
People are sinning.
And evil is grinning.
Jesus is hanging on the cross.
Feeling forsaken by His Father.

It's only Friiidaaaay! (Pause) **But Sunday is coming!**

He went on and on like that for an hour. When he was finished and set down. **I was exhausted!**

He ended that sermon yelling at the top of his lungs.

It's Friiidaaaay! (Pause)

Without hesitation the whole congregation yelled back. **But Sunday is coming!**
That is the good news people!

Jesus could have called 72,000 angels to destroy the world and set Him free.

But He chose to die alone for you and me!

And we can proclaim...

It's Friiidaaaay! (Pause and stretch arms outward)

(Audience Response) **But Sunday is coming!**

CONCLUSION:

As we close this morning, I want to talk just a moment concerning Jesus' death on the cross.

Jesus died in order that all men everywhere could be forgiven of their sins. That they could escape from their spiritual death and be made spiritually alive once again!

But we learn that although this is a free gift from Christ, there are conditions that must be met before we can receive this free gift. Our window of opportunity meet those conditions is now.

My friend, your eternity is much closer than you think: Do you realize right at this very moment you are

- just one heart beat
- one breath
- one heart attack
- one stroke
- one accident
- one blink of an eye away from your eternity!

The question is: Are you ready? Are you ready to meet your Creator should you leave this world today?

Hebrews 9:27-28 (NIV)

²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

- There is only ONE who can save your soul.
- There is only ONE who can turn your hopelessness into hope.
- There is only ONE who can turn your DEFEAT into VICTORY.
- There is only ONE who can turn your ETERNAL DEATH into ETERNAL LIFE.

and **that is Jesus Christ!**

Jesus loved you so much He was willing to die for you before you were ever born.

This same JESUS invites you today to:

- COME to Him by FAITH,
- BELIEVING that He alone can save your soul,
- REPENTING of your sinful ways,
- CONFESSING HIM as your Lord and Savior,
- and being BAPTIZED in the waters of Christian baptism.

On the day of Pentecost following Jesus death and resurrection, the Jews were confronted with the fact that they had crucified the Messiah on the cross. They were pierced to the heart and wanted to know what they could do in order to be forgiven of their sins and be saved.

Acts 2:38 (NASB)

³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Paul explained to Christians what happened when they believed, repented, and were baptized into Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:3-4 (NASB)

³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? (We died to our sins and put to death the worldly deeds of our body.) ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (We no longer live according to the flesh, but we are raised out of the water into a new life led by the Spirit.)

In order to be saved we must allow Christ to remove our sin and be made spiritually alive. This is something that you nor I can do on our own. Without Christ, we are spiritually dead. There is no amount of goodness on our part that can cause our sinful nature to go away.

And Paul makes it very clear that we **must** die to the flesh and be made spiritually alive in order to be an adopted son of God.

Romans 8:9-14 (NASB)

⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.** ¹⁰ If

Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Are you a child of God? Have you died to the flesh and allowed the Holy Spirit to dwell in your body?

Jesus died on the cross in order that this miracle can be performed in you! He only asks that you trust that what He tells us in the scriptures are true and follow Him.

John 10:27-28a (NASB)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them...

Jesus is patiently waiting for you to make your choice.

Let me ask you this morning. What if this is the last sermon you will ever hear? What if this is the last invitation you will ever be offered?

Seek the Lord while He may still yet be found.

NOW is the acceptable time.

NOW is the day of salvation.

We are going to stand and we are going to sing. And I invite you on behalf of Jesus Christ to come this morning, while God is still giving you breath in your body, to profess your faith and be baptized.

He is Lord!