

The Gospel of John

It's Friday, but Sunday is Coming

John 18:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are celebrating Resurrection Sunday. We have been going through the Gospel of John. This morning I would like to continue in John's Gospel. We have just finished with the high priestly prayer in chapter 17 and have now arrived at the betrayal of Judas. This is early Friday morning. Judas' betrayal will set God's plan of salvation into motion. The excitement of the crowds when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey during His triumphal entry will shift from excitement to disappointment and then to anger when they realize that Jesus was not going to become an earthly king and free them from their Roman oppression. They are going to demand that Jesus be **crucified!**

All Stand and Read Scripture

John 18:1-12 (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,

Prayer

BODY:

I. WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

Following are portions of a famous sermon preached by a modern day white minister named Tony Campolo and a black pastor named S. M. Lockridge.

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, 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, Son! 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.

But Sunday is coming!

Mary is crying.

The disciples are hiding.

and Peter's denying that he even 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!

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.

But they don't know that Sunday is a-comin'.

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.

It's Friday.

The disciples are questioning.
What has happened to their king?
The Pharisees are celebrating
Their scheming has been achieved.

It's Friday.

He is hanging on the cross.
He is forsaken by His Father.
Left alone and dying.
Can't nobody save Him?

Oh, but they don't know that it's Friday. Sunday is a-comin'.

The earth trembles.
The sky grows dark.
All hope is lost.
Death has won.
Sin has conquered.

And Satan is just a-laughing.

But they don't know...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!

As the song says Jesus could have called 10,000 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)

And what is it that we know? (Pause) Let's say it all together...**But Sunday is coming!**

You see, Satan had thought he had won. The victory was his! Jesus was dead on the cross and now He was buried. But you see? He had actually played into the hands of God.

It is the time of Christ's glory. He had lived a sinless life and accomplished everything that God had sent Him to earth to do. It will start with the crucifixion, be followed by the resurrection, then the ascension, then the exaltation, and then the coronation. It all begins on this night. This is **the** night that has been anticipated throughout all eternity. This is **the** night that begins a sequence of events that will shape the eternal destiny of all of God's people who have ever lived on this earth.

Jesus has died on the cross and He has been buried. Friday is OVER, and now Sunday has Arrived! Jesus has risen from the dead! And we ask the question...

II. WHY WAS THE RESURRECTION SO IMPORTANT?

Why did Jesus have to raise from the dead? Wasn't His death on the cross the actual event where He took on our sins and provided our means of salvation?

Yes, it was!

When Jesus was hanging on the cross, He cried out with a loud voice and said "**It is finished!**". This was not a cry of defeat and despair. **It was a cry of victory!**

He knew that He had finally accomplished everything that He had come to earth to do. And now He was returning to the Father to receive glory and honor for all He had done.

John 19:28-30 (NASB)

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.

So WHY was the resurrection SO IMPORTANT?

The resurrection was the **ultimate proof** that Jesus **was** Who He claimed to be!

JESUS did not need to be resurrected in order for HIM TO KNOW that He was the Son of God and that HE had provided a means of salvation to man.

Jesus needed to be resurrected so that MAN would know that Jesus was the Son of God and that His death on the cross provided a means of salvation. Man needed to be convinced that Jesus **WAS** Who He claimed to be!

FRIDAY WAS OVER. SUNDAY HAS ARRIVED!

During Christ's ministry, Jesus was performing miracles and crowds of people were being amazed. This was the purpose of His miracles: to authenticate that His claims and teachings were from God.

The resurrection became the ultimate miracle. **It demonstrated that Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf received God's stamp of approval.**

He is in effect saying that these miracles are verification that I AM the MESSIAH prophesied in the Old Testament scriptures!

The resurrection was also the **ultimate proof** that there IS a resurrection from the dead.

I am going to read from the Living Bible and let it tell you the importance of the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 Living Bible

13 For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ must still be dead. 14 And if he is still dead, then all our preaching is useless and your trust in God is empty, worthless, hopeless; 15 and we apostles are all liars because we have said that God raised Christ from the grave, and of course that isn't true if the dead do not come back to life again. 16 If they don't, then Christ is still dead, 17 and you are very foolish to keep on trusting God to save you, and you are still under condemnation for your sins; 18 in that case, all Christians who have died are lost! 19 And if being a Christian is of value to us only now in this life, we are the most miserable of creatures.

20 But the fact is that Christ did actually rise from the dead and has become the first of millions who will come back to life again someday.

21 Death came into the world because of what one man (Adam) did, and it is because of what this other man (Christ) has done that now there is the resurrection from the dead. 22 Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam, being members of his sinful race, and wherever there is sin, death results. But all who are related to Christ will rise again.

Jesus Has Risen from the Dead!

Friday is Over, Sunday has Arrived!
Christ has risen!

Disciples are grinning.
Evil is cringing.
Jesus is appearing,
and People are believing.
And we can proclaim...

Fridaaaaay is over! (Pause and stretch arms outward)

And (Audience Response) Sunday has Arrived!

III. WHAT IS THE VALUE OF SALVATION?

ILLUSTRATION:

Someone once used the example of a penny stock broker to emphasize the value of salvation.

Think about this for a moment. You have heard of penny stocks, right?

Let's say that I am a stock broker and you are overwhelmed with my stock brokering skills, which you definitely shouldn't! However, you are.

I tell you of a penny stock. This penny stock today is only worth one cent per share. But if you invest your penny today, tomorrow that penny is going to be worth one million dollars. For every penny that you invest today, that penny will be worth one million dollars tomorrow.

You are so convinced that you become willing to invest everything because you believe what I am going to tell you.

Knowing that, how many of your pennies would you be willing to invest in that stock today? All of them right! As many as you could find. As many as you could get your hands on. You might start selling all of your possessions for pennies on the dollar to anyone who would buy them. You might sell your car for \$100 because tomorrow that \$100 dollars would be worth \$100,000,000. You would go to your neighbors down the street asking for pennies. **You would do anything that you could.**

Time is of the essence. Those stocks **MUST** be bought before the stock market closes.

One must have faith that this stock is going to be worth millions tomorrow, and once we have that faith, it will cause us to invest everything that we can possibly can before the stock market closes.

Isn't SALVATION much greater than that lousy penny stock?

Matthew 16:26 (NASB)

²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Only a fool would give what he cannot LOSE to gain what he cannot KEEP.

Let me repeat that one more time. **Only a fool would give what he cannot LOSE** (that is his soul) **to gain what he cannot KEEP** (that is earthly possessions).

Jesus tells us that our salvation is invaluable. It's worth is immeasurable! Far greater than any penny stock.

Matthew 13:44 (NASB)

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Jesus in essence is saying that the kingdom of heaven is like that penny stock that is going to increase overnight one million times. It is worth everything that we hold dear in this world. **Is it worth everything to you?**

It certainly was for the man in the field.

The difference is that the penny stock is just money. We cannot take it with us when we die. Salvation is eternal. It is a treasure that will never go away.

Only a fool would give what he cannot LOSE to gain what he cannot KEEP.

Earthly treasures are left behind when we die. Salvation allows us to spend an **eternity** in Heaven in the presence of our Creator.

God so loved you, me, and the whole world so much that He allowed Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He died once for all so that we could have our life restored to the righteousness that we had before mankind fell.

CONCLUSION:

Salvation is of immense value. It has eternal value.

Do you **know** what God expects from you in order to inherit this free gift?

God speaks to us through the scriptures and tells us how to acquire salvation. **Knowing the importance of salvation, have you diligently searched the scriptures for yourself to ensure that you are a child of God?**

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,
- BEING BAPTIZED in the waters of Christian baptism,
- and WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

This is how Jesus has taught us in the scriptures that we can die to sin and be made spiritually alive with Him. If we are not spiritually alive, we are still dead in our sins.

If we are dead to sin, we no longer want to do sinful things. We desire to live for God. We will continue to sin, but the sin is no longer deliberate and Jesus says therefore there is NO CONDEMNATION for that sin. It is covered by His blood that He shed on the cross.

Matthew 16:24b-25 (NASB)

²⁴ ...“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

You see, it is not enough to just say that we believe in Christ and be baptized. If we truly believe that Jesus paid the price for our salvation we will follow Him and **we will throw all of our "pennies" into HIS stock.**

Matthew 16:27 (NASB)

²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

We are not saved by our works. But, if we have died to sin, we will work for Christ. Faith without works is dead.

Compared to eternity our life on earth is very short and we are not guaranteed a tomorrow. Your eternity might be 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 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 that you 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 them eternal life

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, be baptized, and accept His let Him give you eternal life.

He is Lord!