

Easter 2019
"All for Love..."
April 20-21st, 2019

Intro:

- Happy Easter everyone!!!

- We're so glad you're joining us at 1 of our 12 Easter services this weekend!

- Welcome BSL, FTL, ETL, Overflow!!!

- I'm so thankful for the hundreds of team members who have worked like crazy to make this weekend memorable & impactful for all of us!!!

- Give it up for them!!!

? Have you ever worked on something for a long time & then when you finally finished it, it didn't turn out like you thought it would?

- COFFEE BAR IN MOVIE THEATER ILL.

"Let me flip it over..."

? Have you ever worked on something for a long time & then when you finally finished it, it turned out way better than you thought it would?

- GRILL - CAKE - EXAM

- You're like, "It's Finished!!! Yeah!!! This is Awesome!!!!"

- That's how I think, God thinks, about Easter!!!

- Easter is the day when we celebrate the Death, Burial & Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior!

- Easter is, essentially, the day when God says,

"Yeah! It's finished!!! Hey mankind... I got you!"

- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single most significant event in the History of the World!

- More Important than...

- Landing on the Moon!

- Fall of the Roman Empire

- The Season Finale of Bachelor!

- The New iPhone Reveal

- The Last Day of School

- The reason why is b/c on that 1st Resurrection Sunday, Jesus Finished a plan that had been set in motion from the moment Adam & Eve sinned & sin entered the Human Race!!!

- For 1000's of years, ever since Adam & Eve sinned, mankind had been wandering, searching, struggling & working, all in an effort to navigate this life & find their way back to God.

- But, for mankind, the harder they tried, the worse it got!!!

- MWK - That's why I don't do HOME PROJECTS!!!

- That's where mankind found themselves... the harder they tried, the worse things got!

- So finally, God the Father, decided to take matters into His own Hands.

- He sent His 1 and only Son, Jesus, to this earth to pay the price for the sin of all mankind, past, present & future!!!

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned..."

v. 15 "But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!"

- That's the Message of Easter... but let me slow down...

(SLOW DOWN...)

- For 33 years, Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life...

1 Peter 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

- But then, the religious leaders of the day had Him arrested, illegally tried & ultimately put to death for claiming to be the Son of God!!!

v. 23 "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

v. 24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness..."

- Jesus was beaten 39 times, spit on, had His beard ripped out & forced to carry His own cross & He was crucified... for US!!!

Luke 22:63 "Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face..."

John 19:17-18 "Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle."

(slow down...)

- Each of the 4 Gospels gives an account of Jesus' death on the cross that day...

- When you study them all together, there are 7 statements that Jesus made while He was hanging there on the cross.

- Each one significant, each one powerful, each one a struggle b/c He would have had to pull Himself up just to get enough breath to speak!

- On the cross that day...

- He spoke to the other criminals hanging there...

- He took care of his mother & made sure she was provided for...

- He asked the Father why He had forsaken Him...

- He also asked Him to forgive mankind... for they know not what they do.

- But for me, the most powerful & perhaps the most telling words Jesus spoke on the cross are found in...

John 19:30 "When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

- It. Is. Finished!

- Inside this 3 word phrase is so much meaning, so much love, so much Divine Destiny!

- It. Is. Finished!!!

? What did Jesus finish on the cross that day?

*** He Fulfilled & Finished the Prophecies of Scripture about Him.**

- In order for someone to be the Messiah, there were Hundreds of Prophecies that had to be fulfilled & Jesus fulfilled every, single one of them!

*** He Finished the Plan of Redemption for Mankind.**

- Ever since Adam & Eve fell in the garden, mankind had been stumbling around, trying to find their way back to God, & Jesus Finished that!

*** He Finished the Ultimate Picture of God's Love.**

- There is no greater picture of God's Love, then Jesus on the Cross!!!

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Romans 5:7-8 "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

? Why would Jesus go to the Cross?

- He did it All for Love!!!

- We have a God who is Madly in Love with us!!!

- I get it... This is hard for many of us to comprehend!!!

- MIP: Maybe we come from a life where Love has only been conditional or surface level...

- We have only been loved for what we do, what we produce, how we behave, etc.

- To some degree, all of us have experienced that kind of man-made, conditional love b/c that is the only "love" the world knows how to give.

- So when we come in contact with a Love like we are talking about today, it can be hard to accept & fathom & receive.

- But it's No. Less. True & Real!!!

Ephesians 3:17-19 "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

- On the Cross... Jesus finished the Ultimate Picture of God's Love!!!

? What does the Finished work of the Cross Mean for Us?

1. Reconnection to the Father.

A. Sin made us Orphans, the cross makes us His Children.

2 Corinthians 6:18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

B. NEXT WEEK: Sons & Daughters Series!!!

"What does the Finished work of the Cross Mean for Us?"

2. Reestablishment of a Home.

A. Sin made us Homeless, the cross makes us Heirs in a Family.

B. ADOPTION STORY - Page 244 in Sons & Daughters book!!!

- That's what the Cross does for us!
 - It slams the gavel down & declares, "It's is Finished!"
 - We ALL can have a home!
- Not just here on earth, but in Eternity as well!!!

"What does the Finished work of the cross do?" It gives us...

3. Reassurance of the Eternal.

A. Sin made us Destined to Die, separated from God, the cross makes us Eternity Bound for Heaven!

Hebrews 9:27-28 "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 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."

- Church... It. Is. Finished!!!
 - We have access to God for all eternity b/c of what Jesus did on the Cross for us!
- It's a FREE GIFT!
 - We don't have to earn it... we just get to receive it!

SALVATION PRAYER -