

What Jesus Accomplished at the Cross

Part 6: Victory over Death

(the day that death died)

Easter Sunday Morning

1. Welcome and Warm Up: Comments about YEC, God working,
 - a. ***“Here's Hope is a safe harbor of God's love where people are transformed into devoted followers of Jesus Christ who change their world with the power, love and grace of God”***
 - i. You will want to be here next week as we unveil our plan to fulfill the Great Commission!
2. Introduction: **What did Jesus accomplish at the Cross?**
 - a. As we celebrate “Resurrection Sunday” (known as Easter), we can look at what Jesus accomplished on our behalf on the cross.
 - b. In truth, Jesus accomplished *everything* at the Cross that you and I need.
 - i. He reconciled us to God, He paid for our sins, He washed our sins away, He brought us into intimacy with the Father, He took our sins, our sicknesses and our sorrows literally upon His body that had known no sin, no sickness before. And then, under the burden of the crushing weight of the sin and the heartbreak they bring, He died.
 - ii. And for awhile, for two days, it appeared that He was just another prophet, just another rabbi, just another failed revolutionary.
 - iii. Death, it would appear, *had the final word* that Friday. And Saturday. And then on Sunday morning, something remarkable happened. The soldiers guarding the tomb were struck by an angel, the stone was moved away to reveal the missing body of Jesus...only his grave clothes lay there, left behind as if whatever was in them had simply evaporated. Jesus had risen from the grave. **By his death and resurrection, Jesus defeated death. Jesus “killed” death by dying and rising. .**
3. **The Birth of Death:**
 - a. It seems that everywhere we look, we find that scientists, doctors, nutritionists and even fitness clubs are trying to discover ways to help us live longer. But none of them can keep us from dying. While we may expect to live longer, none of us will ever live forever in this body. Death it seems, *has the final word* in our lives.
 - b. We don't like to talk about death...it is still the unmentionable subject. We can talk about sex and people won't bat an eye, but if we speak of death, people become very offended and want to change the subject.
 - c. Why is this? What is it about death that is so frightening? What is it about death that fills us with dread?
 - i. Is it that we have little or no control over our timing or our manner of departure?
 - ii. Could it be we are uncertain about if and where & how our lives will exist after the death of this body we inhabit?
 - iii. Or is it that we know so little about what lies on the other side of death? Some believe that death is the end of life. When you're gone, you're gone. This life is all there is. Others believe that you keep on coming back until you get it right. Still others believe you become part of the cosmos, some great entity of life giving force.
 - iv. What do you believe? And when I say believe, I don't mean which theory do you subscribe to...I mean, **what do you believe about death that impacts the way you live?**
4. The Origins of Death:
 - a. 1 Cor 15:20-25 ***“But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, Adam, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through***

another man, Christ. Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam, the first man. But all who are related to Christ, the other man, will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will be raised. After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having put down all enemies of every kind. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

- b. The bible tells us that *“death entered the world through one man, Adam, the first man.”*
 - i. **Death found its birth through Adam:** Adam was the first to have experienced a perfect relationship with God and the first to throw it away and to pass the death gene down to every descendent.
 - ii. Adam brought sin into the world, and as a consequence, he birthed death.
 - 1. Before sin entered the world, the body he wore was incorruptible.
 - 2. It wouldn't wear out, it wouldn't get sick, it wouldn't die.
 - 3. It would have been immune to disorders, diseases, and death.
 - 4. If it was cut, it would quickly or instantly heal itself.
 - 5. If he broke a leg, it would have been instantly healed.
 - iii. But once sin entered the world, death came with it. Disease entered the world. Corruption entered creation.
- c. What is Death – Death includes both physical and spiritual death.
 - i. **Physical death** is a tragedy, because it is the unnatural separation of our soul from our body (its clothing).
 - ii. **Spiritual death** is even worse, it is a catastrophe! It is the separation of man from God.
 - 1. Sin separated man from God. It led to instantaneous spiritual death of mankind.
 - 2. Every human being, as a result of Adam's sin, was born “spiritually dead.”
 - 3. John 5:24-25 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.”*
 - 4. According to what Jesus said, our default state of being when we enter this world is the enemy of God. We are born spiritually dead. Jesus says when we believe we move from death to life. We were born dead spiritually.
 - 5. Kind of like the movie, “I see dead people walking around.”
 - 6. SALVATION MESSAGE: If you have not given your life to Jesus Christ, and placed your faith in Him and what He did on your behalf on the Cross, then the bible says you are spiritually DEAD. That means that you are dead toward God. You might do good things but God says that you are DEAD. D-E-A-D.
 - 7. Death means to be WITHOUT LIFE. You do not have the life of God in you. You are in a broken relationship with God.
 - 8. But you don't need to remain there.
 - 9. LEAD PEOPLE IN A SINNERS' PRAYER:
- d. *“resurrection from the dead has begun through another man, Christ.”*
 - i. Christ is often called the second Adam, because He lived perfectly upon the earth.
 - ii. He leaves us an inheritance of spiritual life and the resurrection from the dead, we get a guarantee to be raised one day to a new body that will never wear out.
- e. *“Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam, the first man.”*
 - i. Because of our physical descendance from Adam, we all suffer physical death.
 - ii. It is our inheritance, his damaged DNA that is given to us.
 - iii. Because sin exists in our world and in our bodies and in our lives, we suffer corruption.
- f. *“But all who are related to Christ, the other man, will be given new life.”*

- i. When we place our faith in Christ, when we trust in his substitutionary sacrifice on our behalf, instead of our own good works or deeds to make us right with God, we are given new life!
- g. *“And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.”*
 - i. Death remains to be destroyed. It is defeated. It has lost its power. It has lost its sting. While it still exists...one day, when the earth is done and new bodies and a new earth is made, we will never die again!

5. How did Jesus defeat death?

- a. **The first step to defeat death was for Christ to enter into the human condition** so that he could change it.
 - b. Hebrews 2:14-17 *“ Because God's children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. We all know that Jesus came to help the descendants of Abraham, not to help the angels. Therefore, it was necessary for Jesus to be in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. He then could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.”*
 - c. This description refers to what we now would call Christ’s incarnation.
 - d. Christ’s self-lowering was not simply his taking on the condition of humanity, but his taking on a human condition in which he was deprived of something that would be present once he was raised from the dead and glorified.
 - i. His self-lowering, in other words, was his willingness to take upon himself humanity in its fallenness.
 - ii. Exactly what he took on of our fallen human nature, when, as Paul says he came “in the likeness of sinful flesh” (Romans 8:3 *“For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.”*), is a complicated question.
 - iii. He clearly became subject to human weakness (2 Corinthians 13:4), suffering, and death.
 - iv. He willingly set aside his claims and rights to divinity while clothed in humanity, so that he could be our high priest and sinless sacrifice on our behalf. If he used (which he could have) his divine power that was his right to use, he would have been unable to have been the perfect human being.
 - v. He was able to remain without sin and in full perfect union with God.
 - e. **Jesus defeated death by dying.** Doesn’t that sound strange? But you see, Jesus was sinless. Sin is what causes death. Jesus had no destiny with death like you and I do.
 - i. Paul gives us of Christ's redeeming work in Philippians 2, he tells us that Christ began his attack on death by lowering or humbling himself.
 - ii. *“Though he was in the form of God, Christ Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”*
 - iii. He didn’t need to die...but He died because of our sins. He bore what we should have borne, He died the death we should have death, and tasted the penalty that we deserved for our sins.
 - iv. Jesus died of a heart that was broken, exploded. The people were surprised he could have died so quickly. He bore the sin and its consequences of the world sin on his body. It crushed Him.
6. 1 Cor 15:54 *“then at last the Scriptures will come true: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power”*

- a. The bible says that “**sin is the “sting” of death**” – it’s the main reason why death is painful and poisonous.
 - i. Sin causes death and it also brings judgment. We’ve all sinned, so no wonder we fear death!
- b. **Death had never before been conquered.** Sure, there had been those whom Jesus had raised from the dead –
 - i. Lazarus was raised shortly before Jesus was crucified.
 - ii. Jarius’s daughter and others.
 - iii. But all who had ever been raised from the dead died AGAIN. Their resuscitation, as wonderful as it was, had not conquered death itself. They only had their formerly dead body brought back to life, temporarily.
 - iv. When Jesus was raised from the dead, it wasn't temporary. It was eternal. Death had not merely been postponed. It had been fully conquered. How could death be conquered?
 - v. Acts 2:24 "*But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*"
 1. It was IMPOSSIBLE for death to keep its hold on the Author of Life. Death was not strong enough. And the power of death had been defeated, because death gets its power from sin.
 2. The bible says that there was no sin found in Jesus. And since the wages of sin IS death, where there is no sin, there is no death. Death could therefore find no place in Jesus Christ by which He could be held.
 3. But wait. If Christ lived a perfect life, with nothing death could hold, then how could He die on the Cross?
 4. Jesus could die on the Cross because He was bearing OUR sin. He was bearing everything which death COULD hold on our behalf. He took that upon Himself down into death. Otherwise there was nothing in Jesus Christ which would otherwise merit death.
- c. Newspaperman Arthur Brisbane captured the picture of a funeral from a Christian perspective: He pictured a crowd of grieving caterpillars, all wearing black suits, mourning as they carried the corpse of a cocoon to its final resting place. They were oblivious to the flutter of an incredibly beautiful butterfly above them.

. What will you do with the victory Christ is offering to you?

1. You could say, “No, I won’t take it. If it can be won I’ll win it without anyone’s help.”
2. No, I won’t take it. I’m too proud. I want to earn it myself. (Your best effort won’t do. That’s why Christ had to defeat death and give you the victory.)
3. 3. You could take it and say, “Thanks be to God!”

Scriptures and notes:

1. Only 2 people didn't die: Elijah and Enoch.
2. Death was born because of Adam's sin, in a sense, Adam "fathered" death. Death's grandfather is Satan.
3. I imagine death got excited when it saw the Son of God come in human form, and he began to stalk him. He followed him to the garden of Gethsamane, to Pilate's court, to the cross and to the grave. But death "could not hold him."

- And having spoiled principalities and powers, he make a show of them openly triumphing over them in it (Col 2:15)

1 Cor 15:51-57 "51 But let me tell you a wonderful secret God has revealed to us. Not all of us will die, but we will all be transformed. 52 It will happen in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, the Christians who have died will be raised with transformed bodies. And then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die. 53 For our perishable earthly bodies must be transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die. 54 When this happens – when our perishable earthly bodies have been transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die – then at last the Scriptures will come true: "Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57 How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Matthew 4:16 "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined."

Luke 1:78-79 "Because of God's tender mercy, the light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

John 5:24 "'I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.'

2Ti 1:10 "And now he has made all of this plain to us by the coming of Christ Jesus, our Savior, who broke the power of death and showed us the way to everlasting life through the Good News"

Heb 2:14 – "*Because God's children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death.*" (twice in sermon)

1 Peter 1:23 "For you have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God."

Re 1:18 – "*I am the living one who died. Look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.*"

Re 2:11 – "Anyone who is willing to hear should listen to the Spirit and understand what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever is victorious will not be hurt by the second death."

Re 20:12-15 "I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to the things written in the books, according to what they had done. The sea gave up the dead in it, and death and the grave gave up the dead in them. They

were all judged according to their deeds. And death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death – the lake of fire. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire”

Hebrews 2:14-17 “ *Because God's children are human beings – made of flesh and blood – Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. We all know that Jesus came to help the descendants of Abraham, not to help the angels. Therefore, it was necessary for Jesus to be in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. He then could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.*”

Hebrews 2:9 “What we do see is Jesus, who "for a little while was made lower than the angels" and now is "crowned with glory and honor" because he suffered death for us. Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone in all the world.”

1 Cor 15:20-25 “*But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again. So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, Adam, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man, Christ. Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam, the first man. But all who are related to Christ, the other man, will be given new life. But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will be raised. After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having put down all enemies of every kind. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.*”

Romans 6:4-11 “And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. 5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised as he was. 6 Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. 8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life. 9 We are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. 10 He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God. 11 So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus.”

Romans 5:12 “When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned”

Romans 5:18:19 “Yes, Adam's one sin brought condemnation upon everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness makes all people right in God's sight and gives them life. Because one person disobeyed God, many people became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many people will be made right in God's sight.”

First, He brought a widow's son back to life (Luke 7:11-17)

2. Then he did the same for Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:49-56)

3. And later, perhaps most dramatically, He raised Lazarus from the dead, calling him out of the tomb, grave-clothes and all! (John 11:38-44)

Yes, Jesus had power over death. Death was no match for him. People had feared for centuries that death was a stone cold grip, from which no one could escape. And Jesus very calmly asserted His authority over it. Maybe this irreversible event could finally be undone! But then Jesus himself was put to death

Illust:

Recently I saw a special about the lost city of Cleopatra on Discovery channel. The entire island where she built her palace is now underwater. Divers have discovered it. One of the things I learned from watching was that Cleopatra adorned herself like the Egyptian goddess Isis in human form. And then believing she was a deity she took on the persona of someone who was eternal. But in the end, as it happens to everyone, Cleopatra discovered that she was no different than anyone else. She couldn't escape the call of death•