**Mark VIII Easter Sermon The Death and Resurrection of Jesus**

**Jesus: Messiah and Son of God: suffering servant and savior of mankind.**

**Theme verse: Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**

**I. First, let us talk about the crucifixion and death of Jesus.**

**Mark’s version is relatively short. I want to focus in on the Lord’s Supper. We will come back to the actual account of the trials, suffering and crucifixion of Jesus in Matthew.**

**Context: Jesus had already told them 3 times that the Messiah must suffer and die. Mark 8:31-33, Mark 9:30-31, Mark 10:32-34 the most clear yet. “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”**

**Pretty clear, yes?**

**Mark 14:13-26**

**Here is version #4. It is an acted out parable, like Ezekiel did, but he asks us to act out this parable on a regular basis. He gives us a physical reminder.**

**This is no accident.**

**A few things I notice here:**

**1. [with hindsight] It could not be more clear that Jesus knows exactly what is happening and, in some sense, he is in control of what is happening. v. 13-15**

**This is on 14 Nisan. The day before the Passover.**

**2. This is the Passover meal, the Seder, which is actually celebrated on the eve of the Passover, as the Lord “passed over” Israel that night because of the perfect Passover lambs that were killed and whose blood was smeared on the wooden beams above their doors. This is a foreshadow of Jesus’ blood which was shed the next day so that we could avoid death for our sins and be saved from slavery “in Egypt.”**

**3. v. 20 One of you who dips bread into the bowl with me will betray me.**

**This was a communal sharing of bread and wine (and bitter herbs and lamb which are, curiously, not mentioned). Like a meal in Thailand where they dip the rice into the bowls, or in Ethiopia where they dip the injera into the bowls.**

**It involved smell, touch, sight, smell, and hearing (Exodus 13:14-16)**

**Not like my family meals.**

**Definitely not like typical Americans eating dinner in front of the TV!!!**

**4. Jesus gave the bread and the wine deep symbolic meaning.**

**a. v. 22 Jesus broke the bread. Take: this is my body.**

**[ What did they think? Did they “get it” yet?]**

**b. v. 23-24 They passed the cup and everyone drank from the one cup, which was not the custom. This was a communal remembrance for a reason.**

**10:45 Remembrance of an atoning death. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**

**For the Jews, covenants were sealed with blood (Exodus 24:3-8 Zechariah 9:11). This blood created a new community, gathered around a table.**

**5. We will eat it again in the kingdom of God. Think about the next time they ate this meal together as a church. Their memories were certainly triggered. Similarly, our memories ought to be triggered.**

**Jesus: This bread is me!!! (not was… “is’’)**

**This is my blood. Jews have great aversion to blood!!! (The life is in the blood Lev 17:11, so they drained all blood before cooking meat.)**

**Jesus said: Drink the blood!!!!**

**Embrace the forgiveness/redemption you have in me!!!**

**I want us to move more toward our Communion actually being a communion.**

**I want us to come forward, break off a piece of bread, and dip it into the cup (or cups), sharing and remembering together. It is a time to “examine ourselves.” (1 Corinthians 11:28) individually, but also as a community. Just look at 1 Cor 12. 1 Cor 11:33 you should all eat together.**

**Jesus ends the Last Supper with a glimmer of hope of a new breaking in of the Kingdom. Like the apostles, we are drinking this “anew in the kingdom of God.” (Mark 14:25) There is great hope, and this hope is found in the resurrection.**

**II. Next, let us talk about the resurrection of Jesus.**

**Christians are odd. We associate blood with death, but we also associate it with renewed life!**

**1 Cor 15:1-8 This is the gospel!**

**1. The cross is where we find forgiveness. 1 Cor 15:3**

**2. 1 Cor 15:4 The cross is where we find love. Christ willingly gave his life. It is the ultimate demonstration of love. Christ held us in one big mental hug. Whoever is there in the room with you, please give each other big fat mental hugs.**

**3. 1 Cor 15:4 But the cross is also victory.**

**He rose on the 3rd day “according to the scriptures” (for example in Genesis 22 when Abraham received Isaac back from the dead on the 3rd day or Jonah 2, when Jonah was saved from death on the 3rd day)**

**The cross is where we find victory over the powers of this fallen world. Mark 15:25-37, 42-47. Jesus is dead, and our last hope has evaporated.**

**Satan is saying YES!!!!! I have won!!!!**

**But wait. The death of Jesus is a triumph, not a defeat. Mark 15:38-39.**

**Coll 2:13-15 Triumphing over them by the cross. Satan thought he had us once and for all. Boy, was he wrong!!!**

**Rev 12:10-11 “Now have come the salvation and power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.**

**Eph 1:21 Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father “far above all rule and authority, power and dominion and every name that is invoked, not only in the present ag, but also in the one to come.**

**The cross is about a substitutionary death, but it is also about triumph over worldly powers!!!**

**Brothers and sisters, by the cross and by the resurrection we are triumphant. Satan is once and for all defeated. We overcome him by the blood of Jesus and by our testimony. Q: How is your testimony going? Stuck in your house? How about a phone call!**

**The oppressor no longer has power over us. Those who would abuse us no longer can control us.**

**4. The cross is where we find new life. 1 Cor 15:4-7 Mark 16:1-6. Think about Louie. He was dead in his sins, but God is making him alive in Christ. 2 Cor 5:17 Behold! The old has gone the new has come! This is because of the resurrection.**

**We find a second chance Think about Vincent. He was studying, but was drawn back into the world. The world taught him a few lessons—all negative—and God gave him a second chance. Now he has been given a completely new life.**

**We gain the opportunity to become what we were intended to be in the first place. God’s vice-regents in this world.**

**But remember, this new life is “already but not yet. We need to allow God to transform us into what he already sees us as being. 2 Cor 3:15-18 We are being transformed into what he already sees us as.**

**Also, think about Angelica (but we will hear from her in a minute).**

**Finish by reading 1 Cor 15:42-58.**

**Summary:**

**In the cross and in the resurrection of Jesus we have:**

**Forgiveness**

**The ultimate example of love**

**Triumph over the forces of this world and the spiritual powers of darkness**

**A new, risen life. A second, a third and a fourth chance.**

**This is what we remember as we share the bread and the juice/wine and as we, as a community celebrate the gospel together in this common meal.**