

## **PALM SUNDAY 2017 MESSAGE "Saved by the Blood of an Overcomer"**

**INTRO. TODAY WE CELEBRATE "PALM SUNDAY"**

- DAY PEOPLE TOOK WHAT THEY HAD AND LAID IT AT JESUS FEET. LIKE ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET WITH WHAT THEY HAD - PALM FRAWNS**

**\*LIKE JESUS WANTS US TO DO WITH OUR LIVES. TO PRESENT OURSELVES AS LIVING SACRIFICES . WHY SHOULD WE?**

**THIS MARKS THE DAY JESUS WILLINGLY RIDES IN ON A DONKEY in fulfillment of ZECH. 9:9 – NOT RIDING IN AS ONE STARTING A WAR, BUT AS THE PRINCE OF PEACE BETWEEN GOD AND MAN. AS THE SPOTLESS PASSOVER LAMB.**

**MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK WHERE JESUS GAVE ALL HE HAD FOR US.**

**\*\*I LOVE STORIES – THEY HELP ME REMEMBER IMPORTANT TRUTHS. GOD USES THIS METHOD THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE SO WE CAN PASS DOWN TO OUR CHILDREN IN WAYS THEY REMEMBER.**

**\*I WANT TO LOOK AT SOME CONTRASTING CHARACTER STORIES THIS MORNING THAT GOD GIVES US **SO THAT WE CAN APPRECIATE WHAT****

## **JESUS DID LEADING UP TO EASTER, AND MAKE A RESPONSE. (MAIN GOAL)**

**LIKE ZACH POINTED OUT – FAITH IS NOT PASSIVE, BUT PROACTIVE. (PRAY FOR HIS KNEE SURGERY)**

### **I. FIRST STORY FOUND IN MATTHEW 26:6-13**

**While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, 7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.**

### **II.**

**III.8 When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. ‘Why this waste?’ they asked. 9 ‘This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.’**

### **IV.**

**V. 10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, ‘Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 11 The poor you will always have with you,[a] but you will not always have me. 12 When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. – LOOKED AT THIS A FEW WEEKS AGO IN “ALL IN”, BUT I WANT YOU TO SEE THE CONTEXT.**

**A. WE SAID THAT SHE WAS SYMBOLICALLY  
POURING OUT HER LIFE TO JESUS AS AN  
OFFERING. ALABASTER JAR PROB.  
REPRESENTED HER LIFE SAVINGS.**

**\*NEXT WEEK WE ARE GOING TO TAKE AN EASTER  
MIRACLE OFFERING. TOLD YOU LAST YEAR WE  
WOULD GIVE HALF AWAY TO LOCAL MINISTRIES –  
MICAH HOUSE AND YOUTH HOPE. GOD DOUBLED  
OUR EASTER OFFERING. BIGGEST WE'VE EVER  
HAD ON EASTER IN OUR 9 YEAR HISTORY. GOD  
BLESSES GENEROSITY AND THIS WOMAN'S  
SACRIFICE WILL BE REMEMBERED. SO WILL  
YOURS BECAUSE YOU INVESTED IN MAKING AN  
ETERNAL DIFFERENCE FOR SOMEONE RATHER  
THAN IN STUFF THAT WEARS OUT!**

**- WE ARE PRAYING FOR THE SEATS WHERE GUESTS  
WILL SIT NEXT WEEK. HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF  
THEM AS A DIVINE APPOINTMENT? WHEN YOU GIVE  
TO OUR CHURCH OR A NEW LOCATION YOU ARE  
PROVIDING A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO COME AND  
HEAR THE GOSPEL WHICH NEVER RETURNS VOID.  
(GOT IN MY HEAD WHEN I FIRST HEARD IT AT 15  
AND GOD WOULDN'T LET GO!)**

**- WHEN WE GIVE WE ARE REALLY GIVING A PIECE OF OUR LIFE, OUR TIME WE TOOK TO EARN THAT MONEY, AND USING IT FOR SOMETHING ETERNAL.**

**\*\*THAT IS WHAT THIS WOMAN WAS DOING. GIVING UP HER LIFE FOR THE ONE WHO WAS GIVING HIS FOR HERS!**

## **II. CONTRASTING STORY 2 = FOUND IN VERY NEXT VERSE – V. 14 -16**

**READ MATT. 26:14-16 (correct w. Alan). Then one of the Twelve – the one called Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests 15 and asked, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?’ So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. 16 From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.**

**UNLIKE THIS WOMAN, JUDAS – WHO CLAIMED TO BE A CHRIST FOLLOWER, DIDN'T THINK JESUS WAS WORTH MORE THAN 30 PIECES OF SILVER (\$10.00 - DIDN'T ASK FOR MORE!). HE WAS THE TREASURER FOR THE GROUP, AND WAS DISGUSTED BY THE YOUNG WOMAN'S DISPLAY IN THE PREVIOUS STORY HE CONSIDERED WASTEFUL AND IMPRACTICAL. (HER SACRIFICE EQUIVALENT TO A YEAR'S WAGES). \*\*SHE ADMITS HER SIN, AND POURS OUT HER LIFE AT JESUS' FEET. BUT INSTEAD OF BEING “ALL IN “ AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS, JUDAS "OPTS OUT"**

**AFTER BASICALLY JUDGING THIS WOMAN AND JESUS HIMSELF. (HOW ABOUT YOU. . .ARE YOU "ALL IN" OR "OPTING OUT" RIGHT NOW?!)**

**III. WE NOW COME TO STORY #3 - MATT. 26:20-30**

**20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.’**

**22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, ‘Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?’**

**23 Jesus replied, ‘The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.’**

**25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, ‘Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?’**

**Jesus answered, ‘You have said so.’**

**26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'**

**27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you.**

**28 This is my blood of the[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'**

**30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.**

**\*AMAZING TRUTH HERE AS WELL AS DEPICTED IN DA VINCI'S FAMOUS PAINTING:**

**Jesus offers the last supper to all who would come to Him, even Judas!**

**...SO IF YOU COME TO COMMUNION THAT WE OFFER EACH WEEK FEELING UNWORTHY TO PARTAKE, I'D SAY FROM THIS STORY YOU HAVE A SHOT!**

- A. **SOME THINK THEY HAVE TO GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER BEFORE THEY COME TO JESUS. THAT'S A LOT LIKE SAYING, "Once I get well, then I can go to the hospital."**
- B. **THE GOSPEL STORY MAKES THE EXACT OPPOSITE POINT. JESUS' INVITATION = Come as you are, and I'll give you the forgiveness and power you need to be whole. (Anyone who comes to Him, He will in no way cast out.)**

**IN OTHER WORDS. . .We don't change first before God can love us. His love is what changes us.**

**HOLD UP SPIKE – IT WASN'T THE NAILS THAT KEPT HIM ON THAT CROSS 2,000 YEARS AGO, IT WAS HIS LOVE.**

**He wasn't willing to come off the cross, because He wasn't willing to let go of you.**

**BUT JUDAS REJECTED THAT OFFER.**

- IV. **STORY #4 – MATT. 26:36-46 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane,**

**and he said to them, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.’**

**V.**

**VI.39** Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.’

**VII.**

**VIII.40** Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. ‘Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?’ he asked Peter. 41 ‘Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.’

**IX.**

**X. 42** He went away a second time and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.’

**XI.**



**XII.43** When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. **44** So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

**XIII.**

**XIV.45** Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. **46** Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!’

**A. WHAT DOES JESUS REFER TO WHEN HE MENTIONS “THE CUP”?**

**ISAIAH 51:17 Awake, awake!**

**Rise up, Jerusalem,**

**you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord**

**the cup of his wrath,**

**you who have drained to its dregs**

**the goblet that makes people stagger.**

**AND VERSE 22**

**22 This is what your Sovereign Lord says,**

**your God, who defends his people:**

**‘See, I have taken out of your hand  
the cup that made you stagger;  
from that cup, the goblet of my wrath,  
you will never drink again.**

**\*\*YOU DON'T WANT TO DRINK THIS CUP – **The Cup of Wrath** – IT REMINDS ME OF INDIANA JONES – “HE CHOSE POORLY”**

- **OF THE CUP OF WRATH GOD SAYS. “*YOU WILL NEVER DRINK IT AGAIN.*”**

**ISAIAH LOOKS FORWARD TO THE TIME JESUS WOULD DRINK THE CUP OF WRATH *FOR US* SO WE WOULD NEVER HAVE TO DRINK IT AGAIN!**

**1 CORINTHIANS 11: CALLS THE CUP USED IN COMMUNION, the cup of the New Covenant. **The Cup of Thanksgiving****

- **ANOTHER CONTRAST –**
  1. **OF THE CUP OF WRATH – JESUS SAYS, I WILL DRINK THIS FOR YOU “. . .to it's dregs”. IN EXCHANGE SO THAT YOU AND I CAN DRINK. . .**
  2. **FROM THE CUP OF THANKSGIVING INSTEAD.**

**Are you TRULY GRATEFUL that He drank from the cup of wrath so that you can drink from the cup of thanksgiving? OR IS IT TOO EASY TO TAKE THIS FOR GRANTED BECAUSE WE HAVE HEARD IT SO OFTEN?**

**THE PHRASE, “DRAINED TO ITS DREGS” SOUNDS MANLY – KIND OF LIKE A PIRATE!**

**JESUS DIDN'T JUST SIP THE CUP OF WRATH, *HE DRAINED IT TO ITS DREGS*. (IF YOU HAVE EVER SEEN, “THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST” YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS. (MEL GIBSON HELD BACK SOME OR WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AN NC-17 RATING). OR IF YOU HAVE EVER HEARD THE HORRORS OF THE CROSS DESCRIBED BY AN M.D. YOU CAN BE OVERWHELMED. WHY?**

**\*\*SO THAT WE CAN DRINK *THE CUP OF THANKSGIVING* TO ITS DREGS!**

**B. IT'S ABOUT LIVING AND SERVING AND LOVING WITH THANKSGIVING FOR WHAT HE**

**HAS DONE FOR US; WITH OUR WHOLE  
HEART – TO THE DREGS.**

**If we don't hunger after God it is most likely  
because we are full of ourselves.**

**WHEN WE ARE FILLED INSTEAD WITH THE  
HOLY SPIRIT, WE EMPTY OURSELVES AND  
POUR OUT OUR LIVES BECAUSE HE Poured  
OUT HIS FOR US WITHOUT ANY RESIDUE  
LEFT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CUP.**

***BECOMING A WHOLEHEARTED CHRIST  
FOLLOWER IS ABOUT BEING FILLED W.  
JESUS SO HE CAN DO SOMETHING THROUGH  
US THAT WE CANNOT ACCOMPLISH ON OUR  
OWN OR TAKE CREDIT FOR.***

**\*\*IF YOU DRINK THE CUP OF THANKSGIVING  
THAT MOTIVATES YOU TO FOLLOW HIM OUT  
OF GRATITUDE AFTER HE TOOK THE CUP OF  
WRATH FOR YOU DOWN THE VIA DEL AROSA,  
YOUR LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.**

## **CONCLUSION:**

**THIS IS WHERE IT GETS REALLY GOOD. . .**

- **DR. CRAIG HAZEN WILL BRING THIS OUT FURTHER. SUGGEST YOU WATCH SOME OF HIS COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK ABOUT WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANITY SO UNIQUE:**
- **MOST RELIGIONS = WHAT YOU CAN DO TO EARN GOD'S LOVE OR BECOME GOD'S EQUAL YOURSELF.**
- **CHRISTIANITY = ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU THAT YOU COULDN'T DO ON YOUR OWN.**

**Religion = spelled D-O**

**Christianity = spelled D-O-N-E**

**THE WORK THAT IT WOULD TAKE TO BE  
“REDEEMED” WAS DONE BY THE ONLY PERFECT  
ONE THAT COULD BE THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE  
CUP OF WRATH AND THE CUP OF THANKSGIVING.**

**READ CRUCIFIXION ACCOUNT JOHN 19:28-30 Later,  
knowing that everything had now been finished, and  
so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I am  
thirsty.’ 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they  
soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the  
hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. 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”. D O N E**

**SO WHEN YOU GET GRATEFUL AND REALIZE HIS  
LOVE FOR YOU, IT IS NATURAL TO SHOW THE SAME  
FOR OTHERS.**

**ESSENTIALLY YOU BEGIN TO DO FOR OTHERS  
WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU. WHEN HIS SPIRIT  
ENTERS IN WITH YOUR SPIRIT, YOUR LIFE BECOMES**

**AN EXPRESSION OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR YOU. AND THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING.**

**\*COMMUNION IS SOMETHING WE TAKE EVERY LORD'S DAY SO THAT WE REMEMBER. BASICALLY JESUS TOOK THE PASSOVER MEAL, GIVEN SO THE JEWS WOULD NOT FORGET HOW GOD FREED THEM FROM SLAVERY, AND SAID NOW THIS IS MY BODY BROKEN FOR YOU; MY BLOOD Poured OUT FOR YOU.**

**GO THROUGH MATZOS ON TABLE - IN PASSOVER MIDDLE MATZO OUT OF 3 is broken and hidden away to be found with rejoicing. JESUS BREAKS AND SAYS THIS IS MY BODY. PASS AROUND. NOTICE IT IS STRIPED, HOLES, NO LEAVEN. LEFT EGYPT TOO QUICKLY FOR BREAD TO RISE. SAME LUMP OF DOUGH USED IN SUCCESSION WHEN LEFT OVER. YEAST - SYMBOL OF SIN. CHAIN OF SIN BROKEN IN JESUS.**

**Louis Pasteur's coworker in the demonstration of what used to be called the germ theory was Dr. Felix Ruh, a Jewish doctor in Paris. The physician's granddaughter had died of black diphtheria, and Dr. Ruh, vowing he would find out what had killed his**

**granddaughter, locked himself in his laboratory for days. He emerged with a fierce determination to prove, with his colleague Louis Pasteur, that the germ theory was more than a theory.**

**The medical association had disapproved of Pasteur and had succeeded in getting him exiled, but he did not go far from Paris. He hid in the forest and erected a laboratory in which to continue his forbidden research.**

**Twenty beautiful horses were led out into the forest to the improvised laboratory. Scientists, doctors, and nurses came to watch the experiment. Ruh opened a steel vault and took out a large pail filled with black diphtheria germs, which he had cultured carefully for months. There were enough germs in that pail to kill everyone in France. The scientist went to each horse and swabbed its nostrils, tongue, throat, and eyes with the deadly germs. Every horse except one developed a terrific fever and died. Most of the doctors and scientists wearied of the experiment and did not remain for what they thought would be the death of the remaining horse.**



**For several more days this final horse lingered, lying pathetically on the ground. While Ruh, Pasteur, and several others were sleeping on cots in the stables, the orderly on duty had been instructed to awaken the scientists should there be any change in the animal's temperature during the night.**

**About two a.m. the temperature showed a half degree decrease, and the orderly wakened Dr. Ruh. By morning the thermometer had dropped two more degrees. By night the fever was entirely gone, and the horse was able to stand, eat, and drink.**

**Then Dr. Ruh took a hammer and struck that beautiful horse a deathblow between the eyes. The scientist drew blood from the veins of this animal that had developed the black diphtheria but had overcome it. The scientists traveled as fast as they could to the municipal hospital in Paris. They forced their way past the superintendent and the guards and went into the ward where three hundred babies lay, segregated to die from black diphtheria. With the blood of the horse, they forcibly inoculated every one of the babies. All but three lived and recovered completely.**

*They were saved by the blood of an overcomer.*

**THOSE PARENTS AND THOSE BABIES LIVED THEIR LIVES IN THANKSGIVING TO THE DREGS BECAUSE THE CUP OF DEATH WAS DRUNK FOR THEM SO THEY COULD LIVE. PROB. DIDNT TAKE LIFE FOR GRANTED IF THEY FULLY REALIZED WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.**

**Same was done eternally for you and me. How will you live your life out of gratitude for the one who gave His for you?**

**Like the woman in the first story who laid all she had at Jesus feet? LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO ROLLED OUT ALL THEY HAD IN HIS HONOR - THOSE WHO LAID THE PALM FRAWNS ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM?**

**Or like a disciple who betrayed Jesus and traded Him for something cheaper and less than eternal?**

**Let's prepare for Easter this week determined to live for Jesus out of gratitude as the OVERCOMER WHO SAVED US!**

**PRAY - break off a piece of matzo for yourself and pass it to those at your table and then take it to the sides to dip in the cup of THANKSGIVING AND TAKE A MOMENT TO BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR YOU. OR IF YOU ARE NOT SITTING AT A TABLE YOU CAN DO THE SAME WITH THE BREAD AND CUP AT THE COMMUNION TABLES.**