

“The Gospel - D.B.R. (Death, Burial, & Res)!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Who was Jesus?** [St. Gregory of Nazianzus, A.D. 381; *Greatest work on the Trinity*]
 He began His ministry by being **hungry**, yet He is the **Bread of Life**.
 Jesus ended His earthly ministry by being **thirsty**, yet He is the **Living Water**.
 Jesus was **weary**, yet He is **our rest**.
 Jesus **paid tribute**, yet He is the **King**.
 Jesus was accused of **having a demon**, yet He **cast out demons**.
 Jesus **wept**, yet He **wipes away our tears**.
 Jesus was **sold for 30 pieces of silver**, yet **He redeemed** the world.
 Jesus was brought as a **lamb** to the slaughter, yet He is the **Good Shepherd**.
 Jesus **died**, yet by His death **He destroyed the power of death**.
 1.1.1. *That’s My Jesus...Do you know Him?*
- 1.2. **Read** 1 Cor.15:1-4 – the Gospel! [And so our Outline]

2. DIED! (23:44-49)

- 2.1. **DARKNESS!** (44,45a)
- 2.2. **Darkness** – Was this what Amos was talking about? – See Amos 8:9.10
- 2.3. 3 hours of darkness & no record of what happened!
 2.3.1. 3 hours of **silence**, as well as 3 hours of **darkness**.
 2.3.2. Yet, here lies probably the **3 most important hours** of all human history!
 2.3.2.1. So tremendous that it cannot be **described**, it cannot be **told**.
 2.3.2.2. No wonder **the sun buried its face, & hid its glory in!**
- 2.3.3. **Poem** “None of the ransomed ever knew, How **deep** were the waters crossed, Nor how **dark** was the night that the Lord passed through, Ere [*ait*] before) He found His sheep that was lost.”
- 2.4. **VEIL!** (45b)
- 2.5. **Veil torn** – (This happened when he bowed His head) The curtain of the temple separated the **holy of holies** from the **rest of the temple**.
 2.5.1. The curtain **divided people** from the place where God had localized His presence.
 2.5.2. The tearing from **top to bottom** (Mt.27:51) symbolized the fact that now, people had **freer access** to God as they no longer had to go through the sacrificial system.
 2.5.2.1. Jesus was the **only Sacrifice** needed to enable people to have a **proper relationship** with God.

- 2.6. **7TH WORD!** (46)
- 2.7. Father into Your hands I commit My spirit -
- 2.7.1. What were His 1st recorded words?(age 12) “I must be about My Fathers business.”
- 2.7.2. Now, He says, “It is **finished**, Father, into Your hands I **deposit** My Spirit.” [The one who **didn’t** empty Himself of **deity**, but emptied Himself of **the form of sovereignty** & took on **the form of a servant!**]
- 2.8. The Timing,...Impeccable!
- 2.8.1. He was our Passover Lamb, it was Passover, it was 3pm!
- 2.8.1.1. Ex.12:6 “Now you shall keep it(lamb) until the 14th day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall **kill it at twilight.**” (lit. “between the evenings” – i.e. between sunset & dark. To the Jews that was between 3-6pm)
- 2.8.2. It was a death by appointment (not an accident!)
- 2.8.3. This is how **we** die also, not according to the will of **cancer**, or from an erratic **drunk driver**. No we die under **God’s providential care!**
- 2.8.3.1. We do not pray, “*Father into the hands of **accidents** or the apparent randomness of **ill health** I commit my spirit.*”
- 2.8.4. “We will pass through the curtain according to **God’s clock**, not the timetable of **random fate!**” (Lutzer)
- 2.8.4.1. Ps.31:14,15a “**But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in Your hand...**”
- 2.9. **DIFFERENT REACTIONS!** (47-49)
- 2.10. **THE CENTURION WAS CERTAIN!** (47)
- 2.10.1. His testimony is a high point, serving as final witness to Jesus’ **innocence.**
- 2.11. **THE CROWD BEAT THEIR BREASTS!** (48)
- 2.11.1. This was not the effect usually produced upon the crowd by a public crucifixion.
- 2.11.2. They had seen & heard strange things that day. Terror of darkness. (forgive them, thief saved, earthquake, darkness)
- 2.11.2.1. They run off **smiting their chest...**was this the set up for Pentecost? (i.e. w/a sense of tragedy)
- 2.11.3. Already Jesus’ saying was coming true - “**I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.**”
- 2.11.3.1. The **magnet** of the cross had begun its work.
- 2.12. **THE ACQUAINTANCES WATCHED FROM A DISTANCE!** (49)
- 2.12.1. That would be family & friends.

3. **BURIED! (23:50-56)**

- 3.1. **JOSEPH AT THE CROSS/TOMB!** (50-53)
- 3.2. **Joseph** – What great courage. Joseph’s finest hour. (& Nicodemus)
- 3.2.1. This is the hour of **late blooming love** that draws him out of the shadows...to fearlessly befriend His Savior.
- 3.2.2. This godly, rich believer receives permission from Pilate to bury Jesus’ body. [Used his influence w/Pilate to get the body]
- 3.2.3. He **defiled himself** for Passover week, but it made no difference, for he had met the Lamb of God & that’s all that mattered!
- 3.2.3.1. Who cares about eating the Passover Lamb, when you have met the Lamb of God?
- 3.2.4. No hand but the **hand of love** ever touched the dead body of Jesus.¹
- 3.2.4.1. They were lovers who **took Him down** from the cross.
- 3.2.4.2. They were lovers who **provided the grave**.
- 3.2.4.3. They were lovers who **carried Him there**.
- 3.2.5. John tells us “**he was a disciple...but secretly for fear of the Jews.**”
- 3.2.5.1. **It’s interesting**, it is often the **loud-voiced Peters** who say, “**though all forget Thee, yet I will not**” who **fails**, while the **secret disciples** suddenly gain courage.
- 3.2.6. Even in the hour of **deep disappointment** Joseph’s action was that of **love!**
- 3.2.6.1. **Love is stronger than death!** (S.S. 8:9 “**is as strong as**”)
- 3.2.6.2. Rom.8:38 “**For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God...**”
- 3.3. (51) He **opposed** what the group had done.
- 3.3.1. Interesting, he remained with the group. He didn’t automatically leave the group.
- 3.4. **THE WOMEN AT THE TOMB!** (54-56)
- 3.5. (56a) Why this “*waste*”? Because **love** will always **make sacrifices & find relief** in so doing!
- 3.6. (56b) They observe the Sabbath. [They must have found it hard to wait!]

4. **RISEN! (24:1-12)**

- 4.1. **THE WOMEN BACK TO THE TOMB!** (1-4)
- 4.2. The story of the morning begins with **the women** & ends with **Peter**.
- 4.3. **Women, last** at the cross, **1st** at the tomb.
- 4.3.1. Their **love** had not ceased, though their **faith** temporarily failed.
- 4.3.2. They came to find a dead body & honor it.

¹ G. Campbell Morgan; pg.274

- 4.3.3. **[Poem]**
 But dark the shadow of the cross
 Fell then O'er earth & sky;
 There was an echo in each heart,
 To that deriding cry – “He saved others.”
 Can it be Himself He cannot save?
 Ah! **Love** lives still, but **faith & hope** Lie crushed within His grave.²
- 4.4. (2,3) **Open** tomb(2); **Empty** tomb(3).
- 4.4.1. **The Christian Church** is built upon an **empty grave!**
- 4.4.2. **The crucifix** is not the true symbol of redemption! (diff cross/ crucifix?)
- 4.4.2.1. I personally feel the **crucifix** still is a wonderful symbol to bring us to remembrance of **His death**...but not for a symbol of **redemption!**
- 4.5. (2) **The stone was rolled away -**
- 4.5.1. **[1] The stone was rolled away from the tomb of Christ.**
- 4.5.1.1. “Not to enable **Him** to leave, but to allow **others** to see he had gone!”
- 4.5.2. **[2] The stone was rolled away from the hearts of the Disciples.**
- 4.5.2.1. They spent 3 days in Jerusalem where their **hopes** *laid buried*.
- 4.5.3. **[3] The stone was rolled away from the graves of our Dear Ones.**
- 4.5.3.1. The sting of death was removed!
- 4.5.3.2. Up to then none had come back (except those raised back to life)
- 4.5.3.2.1. Christ not only came back, but **showed the way through** death to everlasting life & light.
- 4.5.3.3. **His pledge?** – “Because I live, you shall live also!”
- 4.5.3.4. Reunion with saved loved ones was **guaranteed!** – “For if we **believe** that Jesus **died & rose**...then we...shall be caught up together with them...wherefore comfort one another with these words.”
- 4.5.4. **Q: How does this relate to each of us personally?**
- 4.5.4.1. If you are still “**dead in your sins!**” – **Then**, the stone is still there...**but Christ** is ready to say “**Come forth**” as He did to His friend Lazarus.
- 4.5.4.1.1. For **sin** there will be salvation, for **death** there will be life!³
- 4.5.4.2. If you are already “**alive from the dead!**” – **Then** just remember, He is not a **cute baby** in a manger; He is not **hanging on the cross**; nor **lying in a grave**; **but triumphantly** at the **right hand of His Fathers throne!**

² Griffith Thomas; pg.361

³ Griffith Thomas; pg.372

4.5.4.2.1. He is **on the Throne** & now it is always **Easter**, & it is always **Pentecost!**

4.5.5. If we have **special difficulty** or **sorrow**, let it not rob you of **Resurrection Joy!**

4.5.5.1. He is alive **forevermore!**

4.5.5.2. Rev.1:18 "**I am** He who **lives**, and **was dead**, and behold, I am **alive forevermore.**"

4.6. **THE ANGELS AT THE TOMB!** (5-8)

4.7. (7) **Forgotten words** come back w/**fresh meaning** when **circumstances have changed** & we have **made progress** in *knowledge & character*.

4.7.1. An **encouragement** for **parents** who have had kids that have walk away from the truth. If you have **stored truth** in your **child's minds** it is a little task for the Spirit of God to **illuminated them** in later life.

4.8. (8) The misty picture became focused & sharp & clear.

4.9. The **stone** was gone; the **body** was gone; the women were **perplexed**; & **now** angels have to show up to explain everything.

4.9.1. **They had heard** but they never understood.

4.9.2. **The issue was what?** They forgot **His Words!**

4.9.3. Today, **angels** aren't going to show up & remind us of His Word...that's **the Holy Spirits** job/ministry.

4.9.4. **Yield to the Spirit** & let Him remind you of the promises that will encourage your heart.

4.10. **THE WOMEN TELLING THE REST!** (9-12)

4.11. (9) Women 1st **saw the empty tomb**; Women 1st **saw the living Lord**; Women 1st **heard loving words**; Women 1st **told joyful news!**

4.11.1. **Told** – These women were the 1st *preachers!*

4.11.1.1. [The rest could only share *death & burial*]

4.12. (11) **Idle tales** – Nonsense. "**Used in medical language** of the wild talk of the sick during delirium".

4.12.1. Delirium = L. "*to be deranged*". Literally "*to be out of your track*," from *lira* "ridge between furrows." (LKGNT)

4.12.2. **Q: What do these words mean to you?**

4.13. (12) Yes **John** ran too, & beat him.

4.13.1. But here we have **Peter** running with hinds/deer's feet, maybe thinking all is not lost! (**marveling/wondering**)

4.13.1.1. So here we have **Hope**, & **spontaneous & reckless abandon!**

4.14. **Clothes lying by themselves** – found like a deserted chrysalis/cocoon, with no body in them.

- 4.15. **Easter morning** was the Father's **audible Amen** to all the claims of Jesus Christ!
- 4.15.1. It declares God's **acceptance** of His sacrifice.
 - 4.15.2. It reveals our **power** for life.
 - 4.15.3. It assures us of a **present Friend**.
 - 4.15.4. It anticipates our **future Glory**.
- 4.16. **Christianity then is** trust in a **Person; a Living Person; a Present Person; a Powerful Person**.
- 4.16.1. Christ is a *personal, living, present, powerful* Savior. **Is He yours?**
 - 4.16.2. **That's My Jesus...** **Do you know Him?** (S. M. Lockridge)