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Sermon Notes

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An Easter Celebration: Suffering Gives Way to Glory

Psalm 22:22-31

All around the world today, the resurrection victory of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed to the nations...

The fruits of 2000 years of gospel advance are already on display in this awesome relay race of praise and worship for Jesus

The cry is going forth: “Christ is risen! Death is defeated! Sin is atoned for! We shall not die, but rather live! We shall not be condemned but rather welcomed by Almighty God! We are no longer aliens and strangers, but beloved sons and daughters! Physical death is no longer to be feared, but welcomed as the doorway into eternal joy! Christ has conquered!”

This is a day of celebration, of victory in Jesus! A day to rejoice and be glad! A day to gather and celebrate with the people of God! And all of that in anticipation for the far greater celebration that will come in the New Heaven and New Earth.

Death, the most powerful tyrant the world has ever seen is dead, its stinger removed by our Savior, Jesus Christ. Death had brought unspeakable misery to people all over the world... parents weeping over the tiny white coffin of a toddler hit by a car; a newlywed wife who is now a widow because her husband drowned on their honeymoon; families gathering to weep over a beloved woman who died after a three-year struggle with breast cancer; the unspeakable carnage of wars over the centuries...

Estimates put overall death toll in 20th century at 5.5 billion

- 1-2 billion have died by abortion
- 500 million by smallpox
- 260 million died by tyrant dictators
- 160 million by war
- 90 million by tobacco
- 70 million by drought/famine

- 50 million by the flu
- 12 million by AIDS
- 8.5 million by homicide
- 3.5 million by natural disasters

Russian Dictator Josef Stalin, one of the most cold-hearted tyrants in history, said, “The death of one person is a tragedy; the death of millions is a statistic.”

But this tragic death toll is a listing of people whose deaths brought untold misery and lamentation to hundreds of millions of people all over the world...

There is not a people on the face of the earth who have not lamented bitterly the scourge of death, no matter how it comes. Every culture has its rituals at the time of death, but one factor unites them all: GRIEF

Worldwide, approximately 107 people die every minute.

The tyranny of death is well established in Scripture: TWICE in Romans 5, sin/death are said to reign

Romans 5:14 death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses

Romans 5:21 ... just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

The joy of Christ's resurrection victor is directly proportional to the grief and misery caused by death

What's so amazing is that all of this was predicted so clearly ahead of time in the Old Testament... the prophets had made the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ plain centuries before any of it came to be

Isaiah 25:7-8 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth.

Isaiah 53:11 After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

Psalm 16:10-11 you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. ¹¹ You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

I. Suffering, Then Glory

A. Context in Prophecy: Peter's Summary of Psalm 22

1 Peter 1:10-11 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

1. Sufferings first
2. Glories to follow
3. Two-part outline of Psalm 22

a. "sufferings of Christ" = vs. 1-21... the crucifixion clearly depicted

Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 22:12-18 Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. ¹³ Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. ¹⁸ They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

b. "glories that would follow" = vs. 22-31

- Spread of Christ's resurrection victory to the ends of the earth, to people of every tribe, language, people, and nation
- Eternal life in Christ's heavenly kingdom... death defeated, sin atoned for, right relationship with God restored

B. Context in David's Life: Psalm 22 in its original setting

1. Anointed king of Israel
 - picture of the Messiah... sufferings and glories both
 - ancestor of the Messiah... to kill David is to extinguish the Messianic line
2. Suffered attacks, cried out to God

3. Suddenly, deliverance leads to praise
4. Sacrifice a thank offering: a bull, for a truly thankful heart
 - deliverance leads to thanksgiving
 - thanksgiving leads to sacrifice
 - abundance of meat, a feast for everyone to share!!
 - A picture of the spiritual feast Christ has won

C. Context in Redemptive History

1. David's sufferings a dim shadow of Christ's
2. Christ's "deliverance" only came through resurrection!!

Matthew 27:42 "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself!"

- a. Christ did save others
- b. but in order to save them, he could NOT save himself... He suffered crucifixion
- c. cried out to God for deliverance... NOT FROM THE CROSS, but from DEATH ITSELF
- d. white space between vs. 21 & vs. 22 is the mighty resurrection
- e. vss. 22-31: glorious fruit of victory

Illus. Marathon runner: "Rejoice, we conquer!!" This news is even more joyful, the victory even more spectacular, the spoils of the conquest even richer, the victory feast even more lavish and satisfying!

II. Joyful Declaration to the Brothers (vs. 22)

vs. 22 I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.

A. The Messenger: Jesus Christ in Resurrection Power

John 20:19-20 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

1. The scene set in John 20: disciples together with doors locked for fear of the Jews

2. Suddenly Jesus appears before them with incredible joy and power
3. The resurrection victory completes the crucifixion sacrifice: by it, we know God has accepted the death of Christ for our sins

B. The First Audience: "Brothers"... Jesus' Awe-struck Disciples

1. Writer to Hebrews: quotes Psalm 22:22

Hebrews 2:10-12 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹² He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

2. Jesus appears to his "brothers"
 - a. took on flesh and blood to be made like us... we are of the same family!
 - b. humanity in general, Jews in particular
 - c. YET... not everyone received Him gladly
 - d. brothers not all Jews, but only those who receive him and believe Him

John 1:11-14 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Matthew 12:48-50 He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

- e. progression in John: servants to friends to brothers

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

- f. completed after resurrection: MY BROTHERS

John 20:17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Hebrews 2:11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

We are adopted right into His family through His suffering on the cross... The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has become our Abba, Father as well... we have the Spirit of adoption... we are Christ's brothers!!

C. The Message: The "Name of the Lord"

Christ comes to His brothers to preach to them... even to sing to them!! Tremendous joy in worship!

Hebrews 2:12 He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

Christ sings the praises of the Father to His disciples... God is the subject of His message

1. God is compassionate: The afflictions of the afflicted have been heard

vs. 24 "He has not despised or disdained the sufferings of the afflicted; he has not hidden his face from him, he has listened to his cry for help."

2. God is powerful: death has been conquered

We were powerless over death... Christ's afflictions were really ours; even more, we suffered at the hands of an oppressor so powerful we could never deliver ourselves

Hebrews 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

We were afflicted... but God has freed us from the bondage of death & judgment:

Just like Moses, the deliverer from slavery:

Exodus 3:7-10 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey... And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

God is compassionate and powerful... He hears our cry for deliverance from the bondage of sin and death... foes far too powerful for us to defeat!

3. God is holy: sin's penalty has been paid

Hebrews 2:11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

4. God is loving: sin's presence will be purged

5. God is generous: the feast is open to all

This is the message that Christ declares to His brothers: the NAME OF THE LORD... all of His attributes... He reveals God to them for their everlasting joy

III. Commanding Invitation to the Jews (vs. 22-26)

Paul says the Gospel comes "First for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16)... David follows the same order as well

vs. 23 "You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor Him! Revere Him, all you descendants of Israel!"

vs. 22-26 deals with a clear command AND invitation to Jews to worship God based on Christ's resurrection victory!!

A. God's Command: "Come and Feast"

1. The "fulfillment of vows" in the "great assembly" (vs. 25-26)

vs. 25-26 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. ²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied

a. vows made lead to thank offering being sacrificed

b. meat for all... a rich banquet

c. "great congregation" = full assembly of Israel

2. Physical feast in Old Testament is spiritual feast in New... a feast of worship

3. "Feast" language: constant theme of Christ's teachings

Matthew 8:11 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 22:2-3 *"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come."*

Big problem for the Jews: banquet is ready, they have been invited, but they refuse to come!

B. A Feast of Worship of God

1. Worship commanded of the Jews:

[NASB] **vs. 23** *"You who fear the Lord, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel."*

These are three imperatives... PRAISE HIM! GLORIFY HIM! STAND IN AWE OF HIM!
This is not a suggestion!

2. This worship is the feast to which they are commanded to come
3. This is the very point at which they had failed... they did not glorify God, love Him, or praise Him
4. Jesus' resurrection victory is the best feast to which they have ever been invited!
5. Many are still refusing to enter the feast!

C. A Feast Which Satisfies

vs. 26 *"The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the Lord will praise Him..."*

1. Created to feast on God... to love Him with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength
2. Created to marvel at God's wonders... to sing of His mighty deeds and of His perfect character
3. Deep satisfaction... but the Jews have rejected this for themselves
4. "Poor" = meek, humble, broken-hearted... also economically poor; spiritual beggars who seek the Lord; they are welcome to the feast

D. An Eternal Feast

vs. 26 *"Your hearts will live forever..."*

1. This is the whole point: death has been conquered!

2. This feast of worship... “Lost in wonder, glory and praise” will never end
3. OUR HEARTS will never tire of God... He will sustain our heart worship forever
4. This is an eternal feast

IV. Confident Prediction about the Gentiles

[Paul to rebellious Jews] Acts 28:28 "Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"

A. Predictions of the Future: vss. 27-31 Can NOT Be David!!

1. David's limitations

- a. small Ancient Near-Eastern King
- b. not even the most powerful king in his region
- c. boundaries quite limited... certainly not to the ends of the earth
- d. Gentile enemies just conquered, NOT converted into joyful worshippers (Philistines)

2. Predictions, not commands here (the command is elsewhere... Acts 17:30)

Acts 17:30 *In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.*

series of clear statements... certain predictions about the future

"All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord!!!"

B. Subject: A Feast in Christ's Universal Kingdom

Matthew 8:10-11 *When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

Isaiah 25:5-8 *On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever.*

No limitations to the banquet in Christ's kingdom!!

- a. No ethnic limitations!: Jew and Gentile alike ... “All the families of nations”
- b. No geographic limitations!: “All the ends of the earth”
- c. No economic limitations!: “Poor” in vs. 26, “Rich” in vs. 29
- d. No chronological limitations!: “Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord”

C. Gentile Conversions: from Rebellious Idolators into Joyful Submissive Worshipers

- 1. Idolatry abandoned: “Remember”
- 2. True repentance: “Turn to the Lord”
- 3. Full submission: “Worship [bow down] before you”
- 4. Deep, joyful satisfaction

D. God’s Sovereign Power

- 1. God’s foreknowledge: Why a “confident prediction”
- 2. Foundation: God’s total sovereignty over all nations & over human hearts

vs. 27-28 *all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.*

Matthew 28:18-19 *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations...”*

Illus. Missionaries going to Islamic countries... what are the “odds” of conversions??

E. The Gospel Message: A Righteousness from God

vs. 30-31 *future generations will be told about the Lord. ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn-- for he has done it.*

- 1. Faith comes from hearing: “Told about the Lord”
- 2. Gospel message: a righteousness from God
- 3. A God-centered message of God’s accomplishments

V. Application

- A. Marvel at God’s sovereign power and foreknowledge

1. Working out gospel plan before the world began
2. Predicting it so accurately through the prophets
3. Bringing it to pass in Christ
4. Defeating our bitterest, most unbeatable foes: death and sin
5. Bringing it to pass through the advance of the Gospel

B. Rejoice in God's lavish generosity

1. A lavish feast
 - Complete forgiveness of all sins
 - A transformed heart that turns from idols and false forms of satisfaction
 - A deeply satisfying fear of the Lord
 - A feast of worship... immersed in God's satisfying presence
 - Eternity to enjoy it!! A feast that will never end!
2. A universal kingdom, a feast for people from all nations, from all eras
 - No ethnic restrictions: barrier & dividing wall of hostility destroyed
 - No geographic restrictions: to the ends of the earth, right where you are
 - No economic restrictions: poor welcome, rich welcome
 - No chronological restrictions: for two thousand years, the gospel has been preached

C. Come and eat and be satisfied

Isaiah 55:1-2 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

1. Are you laboring for what does not satisfy?
2. Does death and judgment loom over everything you do?

3. Are you certain you have a place reserved at this feast? The cost is paid, but you must want it enough to come!

D. Announce it to the ends of the earth

1. Jesus the first preacher:

vs. 22 *“I will declare your name...”*

- a. through “Spirit of Christ”
- b. in resurrection power

2. The Church must proclaim it now

vs. 31 *“They will proclaim his righteousness...”*

- a. ministry of reconciliation committed to us
- b. simple task: proclaim message... The Lord’s righteousness- HE HAS DONE IT

E. Suffering, then Glory

1. The Message will not advance unopposed
2. Peter: “The sufferings of the Christ and the glories that would follow”
3. Paul: “If indeed we share in His sufferings, in order that we may also share in His glory”
4. Author of Hebrews: “In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.”

“Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross

5. Jesus Himself: “Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.”