

Easter Message

“On The Third Day” – John 20

April 15-16, 2017

Overview of Our Study

FOLLOWING GOD AWAY FROM DYSFUNCTION		
<i>An 11-Week Sermon Series on the Book of Judges</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Apr 15/16	On the Third Day (Jesus)	Intro to Judges
Apr 23	Learn From the Mistakes of Others (Ehud)	Judges 1-3
Apr 30	Take a Hammer to Your Oppression (Deborah)	Judges 4-5
May 7	See Yourself as God Sees You (Gideon)	Judges 6
May 14	Trust God to Do the Impossible (Gideon)	Judges 7-8
May 21	Deal with Your Anger (Abimelech)	Judges 9
May 28	Avoid Rash Decisions (Jephthah)	Judges 10-12
June 4	Surrender All to the Lord (Samson's Parents)	Judges 13
June 11	Choose Your Spouse Wisely (Samson's Marriage)	Judges 14-15
June 18	Flee Sexual Immorality (Samson & Delilah)	Judges 16
June 25	Keep Yourself from Idols (Micah)	Judges 17-21

Our Most Adventurousome Time in the Holy Land

- Jeep ride in the deserts of Jordan through the mountains of Edom at Wadi Rum
- This is where several movies were filmed including Lawrence of Arabia, Transformers, The Martian, and Star Wars Rogue One.
- We spent the night in a Bedouin tent in a Bedouin tent village in the middle of the desert and ate very adventuresome food.
- Conversation that Lisa and Jim had with a Bedouin man.

My Easter Experience in the Holy Land

- After my experience at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher...
- The Garden Tomb – the guide's opening speech
- Golgotha – “The Place of the Skull”
- Reading the account of the Resurrection (John 20)
- I'm here to testify that...
- Video: “Mary Magdalene” [3:51] found at skitguys.com

Implications of the Resurrection For My Life

1. Through faith in Christ, I am **forgiven** of all of my sins – past, present, and future.
 - **Ephesians 1:7** – *In (Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace....*
 - **Colossians 2:13-14** (NLT) – *You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.*
 - **Romans 10:9** – *If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
 - **Application #1** – I choose to receive the full forgiveness of all of my sins – past, present, and future – by placing my trust right now in Jesus to save me from my sins. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead.
 - Go public with your belief through water baptism. Our next immersion baptism is on Sunday, May 7, after second service. To register for baptism contact Joy at 281-646-1903 x.111 or jperoza@whatisgrace.org or sign up directly online at <http://www.whatisgrace.org/events/> and click on “Immersion Baptisms.”
 - Video of Immersion Baptisms on January 29, 2017 [3:11]
2. Through faith in Christ, I have **eternal life** in heaven.
 - **1 John 5:11-13** – *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*
 - **Application #2** – Because of my faith in Christ, I have assurance of my salvation. I believe that if I died today, I would spend eternity in heaven with God.
3. Through faith in Christ, I have **new life** now.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*
 - **Application #3** – No matter what the condemning voices in my head say, I believe God's Word is true and that I am new in Christ.
4. Through faith in Christ, I have **hope**.

- **1 Peter 1:3** – Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- Application #4 – I choose hope in Christ.

5. Through faith in Christ, I choose to **follow** Jesus and to become His apprentice.

- Jesus wants **followers** – not **fans**.
- Kyle Idleman: “Jesus was never interested in having fans. When He defines what kind of relationship He wants, ‘Enthusiastic Admirer’ isn’t an option. My concern is that many of our churches in America have gone from being sanctuaries to becoming stadiums. And every week all the fans come to the stadium where they cheer for Jesus but have no interest in truly following Him. The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren’t actually interested in following Christ. They want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them. One of the reasons our churches have become fan factories is that we have separated the message of ‘believe’ from the message of ‘follow.’ But Jesus says ‘Believe in Me’ about 5 times whereas He said ‘Follow Me’ about 20 times.”
- In Luke 14, Jesus thinned out all the fans by exhorting them to count the cost of following Him. Jesus said to count the cost in terms of...
 - (a) **PEOPLE**: “In order to be My disciple, you must love Me more than anyone else in your life – more than your father, mother, spouse, children, or grandchildren” (v.26)
 - (b) **PURPOSE**: “In order to be My disciple, you must take up your cross and follow Me” (v.27)
 - (c) **POSSESSIONS**: “In order to be My disciple, you must give up (surrender; renounce) everything you have” (v.33).
- Application #5 – Decision to follow:

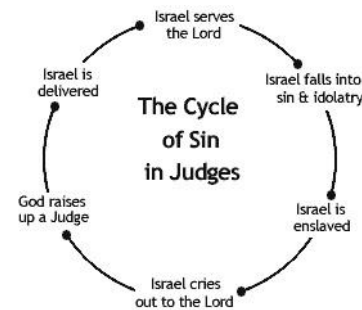
Today, on April 15-16, 2017, I choose to be a follower of Jesus and not just a fan. I surrender all the people, purposes, and possessions of my life in order to follow Jesus.

x _____

- The life of Therese of Lisieux: “The Little Flower”

Dealing With the Sin and Dysfunctions That Try to Derail My Journey of Following Jesus

- I personally have found that my ongoing sins and dysfunctions are the biggest barrier to my following Jesus.
- There is a book in the Bible that is fully dedicated to the stories of God’s people as they struggled with sin and dysfunction getting in their way of following God. The book is called “Judges.”
- Invitation: Would you join me for the next 10 Sundays, as we work chapter by chapter through the Book of Judges in an attempt to seek God’s help in overcoming sin and dysfunction so we can best follow Jesus?
- The repeated cycle in the Book of Judges:



- **Judges 2:11-19**
- Application #6 – With God’s help and power, I commit to come to church the next 10 Sundays with Bible in hand (or to attend online if I have to be out of town) in order to study the Book of Judges as a congregation and to be equipped to overcome sin and dysfunction and follow Jesus.
- Application #7 – As I preview the Book of Judges, the person I am most looking forward to learning from is...
 - Ehud**: Learning from the mistakes of the past (Judges 1-3)
 - Deborah**: Taking a hammer to my oppression (Judges 4-5)
 - Gideon**: Seeing myself as God sees me (Judges 6)
 - Gideon**: Trusting God to do the impossible (Judges 7-8)
 - Abimelech**: Dealing with my anger (Judges 9)
 - Jephthah**: Avoiding rash decisions (Judges 10-12)
 - Samson’s Parents**: Surrendering all to the Lord (Judges 13)
 - Samson**: Choosing a spouse wisely (Judges 14-15)
 - Samson**: Fleeing from sexual immorality (Judges 16)
 - Micah**: Keeping myself from idols (Judges 17-21)