

Is death the end
(or the beginning)?

The ultimate sacrifice...

Two great problems only God can solve

Sin



Death

**Guilty of
Breaking
God's Law**



Punishment

From last week, remember...

- **John 1:29** – Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
- **John 1:50-51** – Jesus is the stairway into heaven
- **John 3:14,15** – Just as people looked up at the snake on a pole, they must look up to Jesus to live
- **John 3:16** – God (Jesus) came to sinful men and gives them an opportunity to repent
- **Mark 10:32-34** – Jesus knew what was about to happen...

Jesus is always in control

- **John 7** : Religious leaders try to capture Jesus
 - **Verses 30-31** : His time had not yet come
 - **Verses 32** : the guards are sent to get Him
 - **Verses 45-46** : the guards are powerless against Jesus
- **Mark 14** : Passover – time to sacrifice the lamb
 - **Verses 1-2** : The religious leaders try not to capture Jesus
 - **Verses 34-36** : Jesus cries out to His Father, but there is no other way to save the world
 - **Verses 41-43** : The hour has come for Jesus to be captured

Jesus is condemned by His creatures

- **Mark 15:12-14** : What will you do with Jesus?
- **John 19:14-16** : Who is your king?
- **Mark 15:15-20** : Jesus is crowned with thorns, whipped, and shamed
- **John 19:17** : The Son of the Father climbs the hill with the wood of sacrifice on His back – **the** Lamb is provided
- **Mark 15:25** – Jesus is crucified – falsely accused, bleeding, naked and ashamed

Jesus suffering on the cross

- **Mark 15** – Jesus on the cross, naked and ashamed
 - **Verse 26** : The truth : Jesus is The King of the Jews
 - **Verses 29-30** : “come down” – the temptation of the devil tries to stop the only way of salvation
 - **Verse 31** : “He saved others” – a clear and obvious truth
 - **Verse 32** : Jesus claimed to be the Christ – the promised Savior, and they knew it
 - They speak the critical issue: choose to “see and believe”

Why did Jesus suffer?

- **Isaiah 52:14,15** A powerful prediction of intense suffering by the Messiah
- **Mark 15:33-34** Not just physical suffering – Spiritual suffering: **separation** from the Father
- **Isaiah 53:5-6** Our guilt and punishment was put onto Jesus
- **1 Peter 2:23-24** Jesus took the **punishment** for **our guilt**, solving our 2nd big problem!

Jesus died and was buried

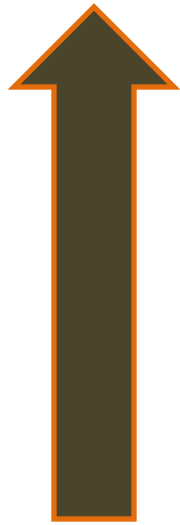
- **Matthew 27** – Jesus died and was buried
 - **Verse 50** : Jesus “gave up His spirit” (still in control)
 - **Verse 51** : the curtain of the temple was torn open (separated people from God’s presence)
 - **Verses 57-58** : Jesus’ body is taken down by Joseph, a well-known leader
 - **Verses 59-60** : Jesus’ body was buried in a secure tomb
 - **Verses 62-66** : the religious leaders knew Jesus promised to rise again, so they do everything possible to prevent grave robbery

Jesus conquers death and rises

- **Matthew 28** – The empty tomb
 - **Verse 1** : Sunday morning, the women go to the tomb
 - **Verses 2-4** : A powerful angel rolled away the stone, terrifying the guards
 - **Verses 5-6** : “He is not here ... He has risen, just as He said!”
- **John 20:26-29** The risen Lord and His apostles
- **1 Corinthians 15:3-6** The risen Jesus and 500 witnesses
- **Jesus died** in our place. He then **rose** and **conquered death**, solving our 1st problem! (**John 11:25-26**)
- There are many tombs of famous leaders all over the world. Jesus’ tomb is different – it is empty!

Two great problem that God has solved

Life



**Jesus'
Resurrection**

**Righteous
(Not Guilty)**



**Jesus'
Punishment**

Bad News / Good News

- The bad news: because of our sin and guilt, we deserve death and punishment.
- Religion and “good works” can never please the almighty, perfect God (**Isaiah 64:6**).
- The good news: Jesus has solved these problems! (**John 14:6**)
- What will you do about it? What will you do with Jesus?
- **Romans 6:23** – the payment for sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. How does a person receive this gift?

Receiving the best gift of all

- **Romans 10:9-10** – believe !
 - Confess that Jesus is Lord
 - Believe in your heart that He died for your sin and that God raised Him from the dead
 - Stop believing in yourself and put your faith in Jesus
- **John 1:12** – believe and return to the Father, becoming a child of God!

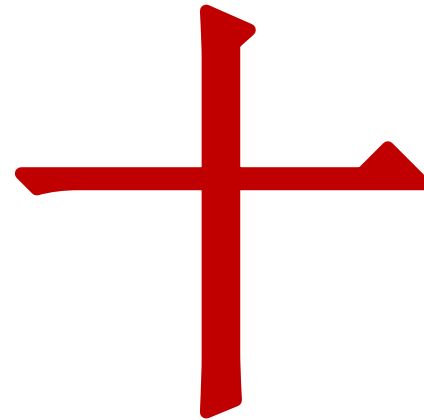
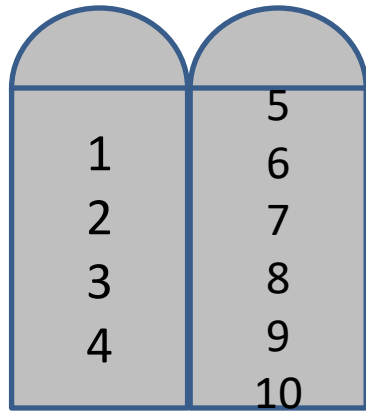
God's solution to our big problems

- In the garden, we all inherited 3 things: fear, guilt, and shame
 1. Guilt – punishment for breaking God's law
 2. Fear – the fear of death because of our sin
 3. Shame – separation from a loving Father
- Through Jesus, all 3 things can be solved:
 1. Through His death, He was punished for our guilt
 2. By His resurrection, Jesus conquered death (cancelling our greatest fear)
 3. By believing in Him, we become children of God (acceptance)

World History – it's His Story

- History is not just a series of random events
- Immediately after man sinned, God sacrificed a lamb to cover their shame
- At Passover, a lamb was sacrificed to prevent death
- On the cross, **the** Lamb of God was sacrificed for us
- God has been guiding history to bring lost people back to Himself
- **Philippians 2:5-11** – Every knee will bow

The cross cancels the law



When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13,14

Learn from the Examples of History

- **1 Corinthians 10**
 - **Verses 1-4** Who was the rock in the wilderness?
 - **Verses 5-10** What was the purpose of these Old Testament stories?
- **Hebrews 10:1-4** “Shadows” of the real thing!
(**verses 11-14**)
- **Hebrews 3:15-19** Why did the Jews fail to enter the promised land? Unbelief!
- **Hebrews 2:1-3** Be careful – do not let this truth drift away!