

Identity Theft

Part 4: Picking the Wrong Mark
Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor | March 31 & April 1, 2018

The Resurrection of Jesus *Luke 24:1-7*

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’”

The Resurrection Power of Transformation *Luke 23:32-43*

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

God forgives

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” ³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

Jesus sacrifices

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the King of the Jews.

History reveals

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there, hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Man appeals

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Jesus saves

Two Simple Truths About You and Me

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. – 1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them... – 1 Corinthians 5:17-19a

Salvation Prayer

Today, I accept the truth that you love me. I haven’t lived a perfect life and I have made some bad decisions. I realize that I am unable to save myself from the consequences of my own sin. I believe that you alone can save me. I admit that I need your help.

Please forgive me for the ways that I have hurt others and empower me to forgive those who have hurt me. I ask for your power to turn away from things that I know are wrong.

Thank you for dying on the cross so that I could be forgiven and set free. Thank you for the gift of your Spirit. I now accept that gift. Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit, to be my Lord and leader forever. Amen

Next Steps

If you’ve never accepted Jesus’ free gift of forgiveness and eternal life, you can do that today during the service, or any time you’re ready. The prayer above provides words to help you express your decision. If that’s your decision, pray that prayer to God and receive his gift of salvation.

See the other flyer in today’s program for additional next steps you can take right away!

Small Group Questions

- 1) How do you answer when someone asks, “Who are you?”
- 2) Read Luke 23:26-43. Are there parts of the story you believe are unfair? Do you struggle with the fact that Jesus forgives the criminal after a lifetime of bad choices?
- 3) Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. Why do you think the message of the cross seems foolish to those who actually need it?
- 4) How has God made you into a new creation? In what areas of your life is he continuing to work?
- 5) Where are you finding hope today?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?