

Combination Crucifixion and Resurrection
(I wrote)

Last week, I told you the story about Jesus and His travels to Jerusalem.

He rode in on a little donkey, didn't He?

And when He rode through the streets, people shouted Hosanna, Hosanna.

The people were so excited to see Jesus weren't they?

BUT there were some people who were not glad to see Jesus.

They didn't like it when He said that He was the Son of God.

They didn't like it when people called Him the King.

They didn't like it when the people would gather around Him and praise Him. Nope, they did not like it one little bit.

So, they decided that they were going to get rid of Jesus once and for all.

BUT, they didn't realize that Jesus WAS the Son of God...that He WAS the King of Kings.

And they didn't know that people would praise His name forever and ever.

So, the men began to plot and scheme against Jesus.

"Just look at this man," they whispered to one another.

"The whole world is following Him we must do something to get rid of Him!" they said.

Now Jesus had one disciple; Judas who loved money. In fact He would do almost anything for money.

When the Pharisees came to Judas, they told him that they would give him lots of money if he would tell them where Jesus could be found. Of course, Judas fell for their trick and he took them to a garden where Jesus was praying.

Jesus had spent the WHOLE night in the garden; praying.

You see, He knew that Judas was going to deceive Him.

He knew that the bad men were coming to get Him.

AND He knew that He was going to be tortured and hung upon a cross.

So, He had spent the entire night praying to God.

You see, Jesus did not want to die.

So He was praying and asking God if His death was the only way in which our sins could be paid.

When God told Him that this was the only way, Jesus said; “Not my will be done, but Yours”. This meant that Jesus did not want to die, BUT He wanted to obey God’s will. AND, He wanted to make a way for us to be with Him for ever in Heaven.

He loved us so much, that when God told Him that this was the only way that our sins could be paid that He gladly gave His life for us.

Soon the soldiers and Pharisees came to arrested Jesus.

They tied His hands and took Him away to prison.

Later, they took Him from prison, they took His clothes away, they beat Him, and whipped Him, they even spat upon Him.

Then they made a sharp crown of thorns and placed it upon His head.

The needles were sharp and they cut into His face, causing Him to bleed.

Finally, they took Jesus away and placed a heavy cross upon His back.

They made Him carry to cross until He was so tired, He could carry it no further.

Then they pulled a man named Simon from the crowd and made him carry the cross the rest of the way up the hill to where Jesus would be hung.

When they got to the top of that hill, they pounded nails into His hands and feet and raised the cross up so that everyone could see.

Jesus hung on the cross ALL DAY long.

Just as the sun began to set, Jesus breathed His last breath and died.

When He had breathed His last breath, thunder and lightning flashed across the sky.

It was so loud and so bright that EVERYONE in the crowd KNEW that this had indeed been Jesus, the Son of God. Just like He had said He was.

Some of Jesus friends carefully removed the body of Jesus from the cross.

They wrapped it with strips of white cloth and carried Him to a tomb.

A tomb was like a small cave cut into the side of a big hill or mountain.

Of course all of Jesus' friend were terrible sad.

They didn't know what they were going to do without their friend Jesus.

But across town, the people who had tortured Jesus and hung Him on the cross were talking about Jesus as well.

They realized that the man they hung was indeed who He said He was. He really was the Son of God.

He really was the king of kings...so now they began to worry.

You see, Jesus had preached and told the people that He would die BUT after three days, He would rise up from the dead.

The men began to worry. Perhaps He really would rise from the dead.

Or perhaps some of Jesus disciples would come and steal the body of Jesus from the tomb.

They decided that they were going to roll a great big stone in front of the tomb so that no one could get in and no one could get out.

They even placed guards in front of the tomb to make sure that no one moved the stone.

The soldiers guarded the tomb all night long.

And just before day light, something
WONDERFUL happened.
A great EARTHQUAKE began to shake the
ground.

An angel of the Lord came down from Heaven,
moved the gigantic stone away from the door of
the tomb and sat upon the stone.

When the guards saw this, they began to tremble
with fear! They fell down to the ground as if
they were dead!

Jesus had risen from the dead on the third day,
just as He had said He would do!

Early the next morning, several women went to
the tomb to put special spices and perfumes to
on the body of Jesus.

BUT, when they got to the tomb, they were
surprised to see that the big stone had been
rolled away.

And not only was the stone moved There was an ANGEL sitting on the stone!

The women were afraid, but the angel spoke gently to them. “Don’t be afraid. I know that you have come to see Jesus.

He is not here; for He is risen just as He said.

Come inside and see the place where He lay.”

The women went inside the tomb and found it empty, just as the angel had told them.

The angel spoke to the women one more time: “Go quickly and tell the other disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead.”

The women ran as fast as they could to tell the disciples.

Jesus had risen, just as He said He would.

And that is what Easter morning means. Easter morning is the day that Jesus arose from the dead and left the tomb empty.

Easter is also called “Resurrection day”, because that is the day that Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

Although we might hide Easter eggs, and eat lots of chocolate candy and jelly beans, the true meaning of Easter is the day that Jesus rose from the grave.

We must NEVER forget what Jesus has done for us and we should never turn Easter Sunday into just a fun, party day.

We must remember that it is the day that Jesus rose from the grave.

Let’s pray right now and thank Jesus for dying on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven.



