



SON RISE SERVICE

“DO YOU KNOW HIM?”

MATTHEW 21-28, MARK 11-16, LUKE 19-24,
JOHN 12-20

APRIL 16, 2017

Why are we here? What is so important about today that we all got up really early to come to a Son rise service?

We came today to hear a story, and its important because this story is the heart of the Good News of Jesus, it is the culmination of God’s redemptive plan of Salvation; the sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection of the God-man Jesus to conquer sin, shame, condemnation, guilt, and death; in order to give us the hope of forgiveness, mercy, love, and eternal life with God through Jesus Christ.

You all know that anything that is repeated in Scripture or if there is a great deal of time dedicated to talking about

something than it's important., well the Bible has four books that are dedicated to describing Jesus' earthly life and His ministry. These books are called the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

What is absolutely amazing is how much of the Gospels focus on just the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry; A third of both Mathew and Mark, a quarter of Luke, and almost half of John. A third of all the Gospels tell the story of this last week.

This has led Author **Andy Naselli** to say that "The Gospels are essentially passion narratives with extended introductions."

But it can be difficult to preach on Resurrection Sunday; we come year after year to tell this very important story, and it has become familiar, comfortable, perhaps almost common, so we want to make sure we tell this story right, that we are correctly handling Scripture and that we help tell this story in a way that the church is edified not simply satisfied; that we are actually transformed by the story, not just comforted by it.

So my goal this morning is to try to tell the story again, I am not going to try to recite it verse by verse or to hit every single thing that happened during that week, but hopefully I can tell the story in a way that helps us all see it with new eyes, to hear it with new ears, so we can live it with a new heart.

The Triumphal Entry:
Matthew 21:9, Mark 11:9b-10, John 12:13

2000 years ago on what we would call Sunday people are approaching Jerusalem as they do every year to celebrate the Passover, the festival where they remember the story that the Lord God saved them from slavery out of Egypt all those years ago.

As they walk they talk and they are telling the stories of this Rabbi called Jesus about the miracles He performs; the blind made to see, the crippled walk, the sick are healed. Stories about how Jesus eats with sinners and tax collectors; and how Zacchaeus a chief tax collector just met with Jesus and repented and now wants to make amends for all he had stolen from his people; they talk about how Jesus teaches about God and confronts the Pharisees and leaders. And now the latest news that Lazarus has been raised from the dead.

There is excitement as news reaches them that Jesus is heading to Jerusalem too. The enthusiasm builds and the crowds begin to talk;

“Maybe this Rabbi really is the Messiah, maybe our long wait is over and deliverance is at hand.”

They see Jesus as He enters Jerusalem

13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!”

“The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

“Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 God bless the coming kingdom of King David, our father! Praise be to God!”

The people are praising and celebrating, they are placing palm branches and their robes before Jesus as though He were a King, they are calling upon God through Jesus to save them now, to deliver them now and usher in the Davidic Kingdom that was promised.

But there is just one problem, in their praise of Jesus, in their knowing that He is the promised Deliverer they “Got it wrong”

Their idea of the Messiah was a political one.

“Our new leader is here. Our country will be freed from these godless invaders. We will become the greatest kingdom on earth again, praise be to God we are saved! Let’s make Israel great again.”

They wanted a king that was going to conquer the evil empire of Rome, but Jesus came as The King who was going to conquer the evil empire of sin.

The people were limited in their view; their life here on earth and their faith was tied to their earthly comfort and desires. Jesus challenged them and us to see things from the view of The Kingdom of God; of faith, mercy, forgiveness, humility, service; of Love.

They thought they knew who Jesus was, but they got it wrong.

The Cleansing of the Temple

Matthew 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-18, Luke 19:45-47

Then the following day

¹⁵ When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves,¹⁶ and he stopped

everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. ¹⁷ He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”

¹⁸ When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching.

Holy zeal welled up in Jesus as He saw people were turning worship of His Father into worship of themselves.

Even here in the temple of God people were striving for their comfort and their control. As Jesus proclaimed the Word of God we read that the Pharisees and leaders became angry and began to plan how to kill Jesus.

You see the Pharisees thought that they knew who Jesus was; he was an upstart, a trouble maker, a poor, itinerant preacher from the back woods of Galilee.

He was a man who threatened their position, authority, power and pride. They just knew, they knew that they were God’s chosen people, they knew how to interpret God’s law and they knew that there was nothing that Jesus could teach them about worship, faith, or service. So the only solution was to take Him out, to remove the threat to their power.

They thought they knew who Jesus was, but they got it wrong.

Teaching in the Temple

Matthew 21:23-25:46, Mark 11:20-13:37, Luke 20:1-21:4, John 12:20-50

On Tuesday Jesus returned to the temple and gave some of His most famous teachings. He spoke to the crowds and the Pharisees about His authority, taught many parables, and defended challenges about paying tribute to Caesar and about the resurrection of the dead.

He commended the Widows gift and He proclaimed Woe unto the Pharisees who teach about God but are far from God. Jesus revealed the great Commandment to Love God and to love your neighbor. And He spoke of the final judgement that is to come.

The crowds thought of Him as a great teacher; full of wisdom and grace. The Pharisees continued to be sure that Jesus was a problem to be solved, a threat to be ended.

Both groups thought they knew who Jesus was, but both groups got it wrong.

The Betrayal of Judas

Matthew 26:14-16, Mark 14:10-11, Luke 22:3-6

Then Judas called Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the Chief priest and leaders to discuss how He might betray Jesus into their hands in exchange for money.

Here is Judas a disciple; not just a disciple, but chosen to be one of the twelve. Judas had walked with Jesus for the last couple of years, slept on the ground with Him, shared fire and food, shared laughter and tears, They ministered to the crowds, He saw the miracles, but he still did not know who Jesus really was.

You see for Judas Jesus was just a man, Jesus was a means to an end. For Judas Jesus was supposed to bring freedom from Rome, money, comfort, prestige, and power. The miracles, the

preaching and teaching, seeing Jesus serve and humble Himself loving people no one loved, none of that mattered.

Judas was willing to throw away everything just to make some money, just to earn back some of the time, effort, and resources that he had sacrificed in following Jesus.

For Judas the relationship he had with Jesus was a business arrangement. He followed because of what he hoped to get out of Jesus not because he loved Jesus.

Even though Judas thought he knew who Jesus was he got it wrong.

The Passover Meal/A New Supper

Matthew 26:17-35, Mark 14:12-31, Luke 22:7-38, John 13:1-17:26

The next day Jesus shares a final meal with His disciples. He spends much of the evening preparing them for what is to come.

But these guys don't get it, they argue over who among them is the greatest, they strive for position and power.

Jesus even shows them what true power in the Kingdom of God looks like. It is humbling yourself in service to others, even humbling yourself to wash feet.

He commands them to love one another as He has loved them; as a sign to the world.

He promises the coming of a Helper, He predicts persecutions and hardships, and He says that He goes to prepare a place for those that belong to Him.

Then at the table Jesus using the emblems before Him of the Passover He proclaims a new covenant, a new promise of forgiveness of sin in His blood through the suffering He is about to face.

These men, Jesus' beloved disciples, those He has chosen and trained, taught and empowered still don't understand. They proclaim loyalty to never leave Him, but will soon flee. They know that Jesus is their friend; they know that He is the Messiah, they know that Jesus is the Son of God; but they still got it wrong.

Because they did not understand that the Messiah had to suffer and sacrifice Himself for the world in order to free the world from its guilt.

They don't understand that a life in Christ is a life of sacrifice and service.

Jesus' Death, Burial

Matthew 26:47-27:66, Mark 14:43-15:47, Luke 22:47-23:56, John 18:1-19:42

Then they came for Him, the soldiers, the leaders, those men in authority arrested Jesus.

He then endured an agonizing night of being dragged before The High Priest, the Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod, and back to Pilate. He is mocked, accused, lied about, tortured, found innocent but condemned to die anyways.

His body is nailed to a cross. He becomes the vessel in which all of our sins, all of our pain, all the wrath of God is poured out on Him.

And this whole time those men in authority thought they had authority over Jesus, but they were wrong.

Those men and the crowds thought that Jesus' life was theirs to take, but they were wrong.

They thought He was a man to be condemned, a criminal to be punished, but they were wrong.

They knew...they knew that killing Jesus would make Him go away, that placing His tattered, torn, mutilated body in a cold dark tomb would take care of the problem of Jesus, but they were wrong.

The Resurrection

Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20

On Friday darkness covered the land, on Friday hope was crushed, on Friday the promise was ended, on Friday Jesus died.

And EVERYONE knew that Jesus was dead. His disciples knew it, Pilate knew it, the Jewish leaders knew it, the soldiers knew it, and the crowds knew it

The women who walked slowly to His tomb that morning knew who Jesus was too; He was their lost hope; their dead teacher, their dead friend. They came with supplies to prepare the dead body. They had no expectation or belief that Jesus was not dead, because they had seen Him die.

You see they knew who Jesus was, but they were it wrong.

We know the rest of the story; as they walk to the tomb wondering who would move the stone God was already working out the completion of His perfect plan of salvation.

² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on

it. ³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow...⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.⁶ He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.

So many people in this story thought they knew, without a doubt, without any chance that they could possibly be wrong, that they knew who Jesus was, but as we see they were wrong.

So as we come here today, we say we know who Jesus is. We proclaim Him as Lord and Savior, but I have to ask do we know Him?

Do we say we know Jesus but when something bad happens is the first question “why me” as though Jesus owes us an easy life?

Do we say we know who Jesus is but then we ignore His commands and live a life of sin?

Do we say we know who Jesus is but expect Him to lead our country like a politician instead of leading our hearts and lives as our Lord and Savior?

Do we say we know who Jesus is but we keep wondering when this faith thing will kick and we get the things we are waiting for?

Do we say we know who Jesus is but we still want to be served instead of serving others? Want to withhold forgiveness and hold on to hatred?

Do we say we know who Jesus is but still live with the guilt and shame over things He died to forgive?

Do we say we know who Jesus is but still believe that there is something wrong with me and that He could never really love me?

Our faith in Jesus, us knowing who we think Jesus is can never be separated from the truth of who Jesus really is as revealed by the Word of God.

Our feelings, our opinions, our thoughts can never be the driving force behind our faith; faith can only be fulfilled by the written revelation of God.

To say we know Jesus, means we think less about what we want, think, or feel and it has everything to do with believing Jesus is who He says He is and living like we mean it.

But here is the great news. The Jesus who died for you, the Jesus who rose from that grave and lives today, He doesn't expect you to be perfect; In fact He already knows you're not and He still loves you.

That is the story of Jesus we gather together today to celebrate; that is the Jesus we proclaim in worship today.

So do you know Jesus?
