

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 28, 2021

The greatest event in all history is celebrated next Friday and Sunday. At this event the two forces of the universe meet, all of hell and all of heaven, to fight for the most important part of God's creation and that is "mankind." This is because God command mankind to rule over the earth (Gen. 1:26-28), a place where Satan, who was cast from heaven, is the prince of air (Eph. 2:2), the power that rules the earth (1 John 5:18-19). Mankind is also important because Christ will establish His kingdom on earth and mankind will then reign with Christ. Our positions will be so important that we will rule the angels. The cross, therefore, was the fight for the "ruling class" of the universe.

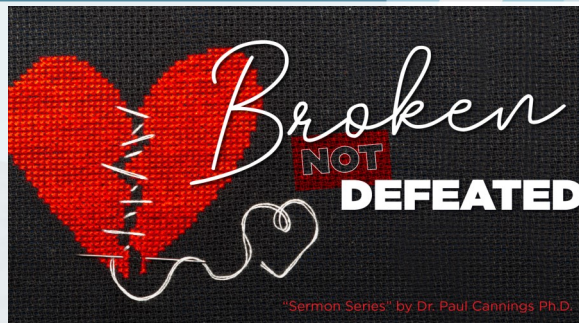


In His death Christ expressed His love, but in His resurrection, Christ demonstrated His awesome power over death and Satan (Eph. 1:19-20), and also His commitment to work out His plan, purpose and will for all mankind (Eph. 1:11-12; Revelation 4:11). This event did not just occur in history, it made the life of mankind, as it relates to God, the force that will make history, and control the direction of the universe. So, if you are not a part of the "ruling class", cross the tracks by accepting Jesus Christ in your life. If you are in the "ruling class" please be reminded on this "V Day" that we need to live in Victory like our King, Christ Jesus who sits at the right hand of God. This is a tremendous blessing for a people who did not seek God (Romans 3:11-12; God had to draw us to Himself; John 10: 6:44), and we could not gain salvation by works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

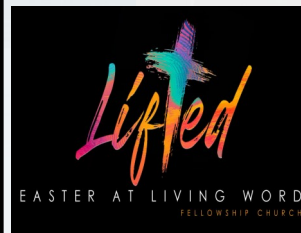
There is no greater celebration than the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christ's death and resurrection provided us a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17), the power of the Holy Spirit fully in us forever (Titus 3:4-8; John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16), access to God forever through Christ (Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 8:1-2; John 9:31), ministering angels that protect us (Hebrews 1:14), forgiveness for our sins (1 John 1:9), and the hope of living in heaven eternally (2 Corinthians 5:6-10; John 14:1-4) and on earth (Rev. 21). It may sometimes seem like God is taking a long time to do what He says but in the right season (Galatians 4:4) God will do what He has promised.

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39; NIV)

PRAISE THE LORD GOD!!!



UPCOMING Events



Easter at Living Word

JOIN US as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! This **3-day event** will be full of many activities for the entire family!! From the **DYNAMIC Good Friday Service and Worship & Arts Live Production** on **Fri., April 2nd**, The Good News Festival on **Sat., April 3rd** all the way to the powerful worship and inspiring message on **Sun., April 4th**. This Easter will be one to remember! Visit the church's website or social media for more information at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events

Donations Needed: Please donate candy filled eggs for our festival or contact Sylvia Edwards for more information.



Good Friday Service

Join us on **Friday, April 2nd at 6PM** for a special Good Friday service in-person or online with Pastor Paul Cannings as we commemorate the price Jesus paid for each one of us. Stream with us on Facebook, YouTube. Reserve your seat by visiting www.lwfellowshipchurch.org



The Comeback" Production

Before we can celebrate Easter, we have to first remember what happened three days before. The Worship & Arts and LWFC Kidz Ministry presents "The Comeback" on **Friday, April 2nd at 8pm** online through Facebook and YouTube.



The Good News Festival

Next **Saturday April 3rd**, join the #LFWCFamily in celebrating #EasterWeekend with our **Good News Festival**. Enjoy food, inflatables, live music, & games for the whole family.
Time: 11am- 2pm
Location: LWFC Parking Lot



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Word of God

Guilty!

Luke 23:13-25

Dr. Paul Cannings

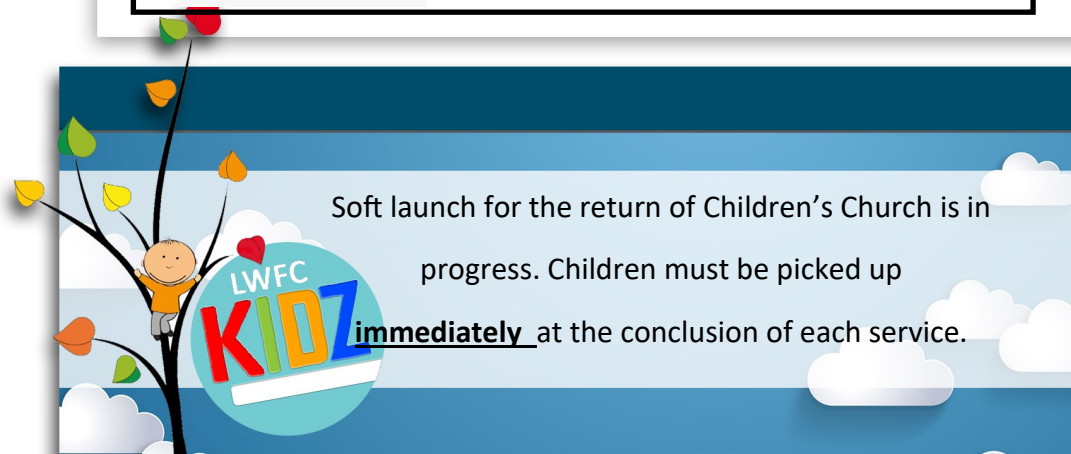
Sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song



S E R M O N O U T L I N E

Guilty

Luke 23:13-25

A. Guilty, for Not Giving into Evil (vs. 13-14):

1. Pilate once and for all loudly calls to the top of his lungs for the chief priest, rulers, and the people to come to him.
2. Message Pilate seeks to communicate to them is direct and in a commanding tone.
3. Pilate, literally with no plans to repeat this, moves Jesus towards the chief priest, rulers, and the people to tell them his resolution to the issue.
4. One of their claims was that Jesus habitually seeks to pervert and mislead the people to rebel against Rome (also not pay taxes because He said give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God).
5. Pilate stated to them that he carefully interrogated Christ, scrutinizing everything thoroughly. He found that there was no truth to what they were accusing Christ of.
6. There was no wrongdoing leading to a crime that Pilate says he can legitimately condemn Christ for, not even based on the accusations they were bringing for him.
7. Herod sent Christ back to Pilate once and for all because there was no point for Pilate to return Christ to him.
8. Christ was sent back because there was absolutely nothing he did which violated Roman law. There was no evidence that supported the accusations that were made against Him, especially to deserve death.
9. Christ totally did not perform any actions that required death.
10. Christ did not need anyone to educate Him to mature, or find the right direction, that if missed, He would then need correcting words or chastening to correct wrong behavior.
11. Pilate prepared to release Christ from bondage like a husband and wife divorcing each other (the word release has the same meaning as divorce).

B. Guilty, For Living Holy (vs. 18-19):

1. Pilate once and for all loudly calls to the top of his lungs for the chief priest, rulers, and the people to come to him.
2. They constantly kept verbalizing the same thing over and over again “Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas.”
3. They commanded Pilate to once and for all remove from bondage a known convicted sinner in the place of Christ, who was and is not guilty. (Romans 6:6-7).
4. Barabbas was forcefully thrown into prison because he intentionally engaged in creating intense emotional unrest against the Roman authorities and premeditatively killed someone.
5. Pilate authoritatively called out to them to verbally respond to their request.
6. The chief priest, leaders and the people loudly spoke out what they intended for Pilate to do.
7. What they were saying was specifically and repeatedly loudly verbalized over and over again. They were beginning to behave more and more like a mob.
8. The repeatedly, loud shouting that they wanted Christ to be placed on a cross and nailed with stakes like a common thief or insurrectionist.
9. Pilate took a stand because he again repeated a third time that Christ was not guilty. Pilate moved the court hearing to the streets.
10. Pilate and Herod clearly stated what they wanted to be known as the only ones who had the authority to execute a death sentence.

10. Notice this question was not how Christ broke Roman law (one of their accusations) because there was no evidence that He did.
11. Since these were chief priest and rulers of the moral, civil, and ceremonial law of Israel, the question was directly challenging their standards. (Mark 15:10).
12. Pilate loudly proclaimed that after a thorough, careful scrutiny, Christ is guiltless because there is no criminal cause to charge Him.
13. Notice Pilate said, “in Him”. Some believe that because Christ claimed to be the “King of the Jews” that Pilate thought Christ was a lunatic. The scriptures did not say that Christ did not speak to Pilate. It says that He did not speak to Herod.
14. Pilate sought to calm everyone down by scourging Christ after acknowledging Christ did nothing wrong. This also allows Pilate to divorce himself from executing an innocent Christ.
15. The chief priest, leaders and the people became more intentional and sought to execute more pressure to the point that they were beginning to act like a mob about to get out of control.
16. Their repeated request was as if Pilate had no authority over them to stop what they demanded. As a result, he must do what they loudly and persistently demanded and that is to put Christ on a cross and drive stakes into His body.
17. The leaders became more intense, which was clearly displayed by the magnitude of how loud their voices became. Their intensity caused Pilate to realize there was nothing he can do to stop them.

C. Guilty, For Loving God and Us (vs. 24-25):

1. Their intense determined, boisterous response caused Pilate to adjudicate the case for which he privately could not find just cause. His judgement became what they wanted.
2. Pilate decided to let go from prison Barabbas since it was customary to do this during the Passover. This is what they were demanding with no intent on ever changing their minds.
3. Barabbas was convicted and was violently placed in prison with no intent of ever being released. The sinful chief priest and leaders accepted a sinful man while executing an Innocent man,
4. Pilate finally made up his mind to turn Christ over to the control of the chief priest and leaders.
5. Pilate and Herod clearly stated what they wanted as the only ones who had the authority to execute a death sentence. However, the chief priest and leaders still persisted. It becomes vividly clear that “He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.” (John 1:11)

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Robert James & family, Renessa Matthews & family, Debra Gaines & family, Diana Horn & family, Lee White & family, Roslyn Grimes & family, Mary Wheatley and Carol Dickerson & family, Patricia Moore & family, Linda Harrison & family, and Judy Times & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bull-ock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Debra Gaines, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, and Janice Brown.

GUILTY

LUKE 23:13-25