

Believing for the Advent-ure!

Living a Life of Daring Faith between Jesus' First and Second Coming

Luke 23.26-56

The Provision, Miracle and Victory of the Cross

Opening thoughts

- Passion of the Christ – focusing on just Jesus' suffering causes some to miss the miracle and the victory.
- When I got saved into the charismatic movement of the late 70's I missed the message of the cross. When I discovered it I came to the reality of the miracle and the power of the Word. I also came to an appreciation of the whole Bible, both New & Old Testaments.
- Luke ends with a commission to go into all the world – the empowerment of the Spirit was to aid in this endeavor, but the message we were to take was the message of the cross.

Gallup Poll – “According to Religious Literacy, polls show that nearly two-thirds of Americans believe the Bible holds the answers to ‘all or most of life’s basic questions,’ but pollster George Gallup has dubbed us ‘a nation of biblical illiterates.’ Only half of U.S. adults know the titles of even one Gospel. Most can’t name the Bible’s first book. The trend extends even to Evangelicals, only 44% of whose teens could identify a particular quote as coming from the Sermon on the Mount.”

Other facts – 93% of all Americans believe in God. Only 3% say they are atheists.

Summary – Everyone thinks the Bible has the answers to life, everyone owns one, but nobody is reading it or applying it. Saying that you’re a Christian and being one are clearly two different things. Living in a garage doesn’t make you a car.

Luke 24 – The commission

44 Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms **must be fulfilled**.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. 46 And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. 47 It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, [*all ethnos – all people*] beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ 48 You are witnesses of all these things.

Ephesians 2

20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

- Prophets = over 1200 years of foreseeing the Messiah. They told of his miraculous coming, the circumstances around it, his life and ministry, his death, resurrection and second coming.

Josh McDowell - More than 300 prophecies were fulfilled at the first advent – 60 major messianic prophecies and 260 ramifications concerning Jesus alone. Mathematical probability is 1 in 10^{17} th power or 1 to 100,000,000,000,000,000

- Apostles = an eye witness account that it all happened just as it was prophesied.
- Jesus is the cornerstone = It all pivots on Jesus.
- The message of the cross is told over and over again in the Old Testament starting with the first Passover. The cross is the last Passover. Just as the Lord instructed the people through Moses to tell the story again and again, Jesus told us to retell the story through communion. It's all connected.

Passover – freedom from a life of bondage through sacrifice. 1446 B.C.

- Innocent lamb
- Unleavened bread – striped and pierced

Betrayal through Judas foretold:

Zech. 11 [530 B.C.]

12 ...So they counted out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—this magnificent sum at which they valued me! So I took the thirty coins and threw them to the potter in the Temple of the LORD.

Matt. 27: 9

...“They took the thirty pieces of silver—the price at which he was valued by the people of Israel, 10 and purchased the potter’s field, as the LORD directed.”

The Foretelling of the Crucifixion

John 19 – John’s eyewitness account

31 It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn’t want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was the Passover). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. 33 But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn’t break his legs. 34 One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. 35 (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also can believe.) 36 These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, “Not one of his bones will be broken,”

37 and “They will look on the one they pierced.”

Psalm 22 – David’s vision [1000 B.C.]

14 My life is poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart is like wax,
melting within me.

15 My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay.
My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.
You have laid me in the dust and left me for dead.

16 My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs;
an evil gang closes in on me.

They have pierced my hands and feet.

17 I can count all my bones.
My enemies stare at me and gloat.

18 They divide my garments among themselves
and throw dice for my clothing.

Psalm 34 - His bones were not broken
not one of them is broken!

20 For the LORD protects the bones of the righteous;

The story of the Crucifixion could have been told purely through Old Testament prophecy

Luke 23

26 As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, [A city in North Africa] happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A large crowd trailed behind, including many grief-stricken women. 28 But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the days are coming when they will say, ‘Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.’”

- Luke 21:23 – Prophecy of future persecution – “How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. For there will be disaster in the land and great anger against this people.” - In 70 years the temple was destroyed & the Roman persecution began.

30 People will beg the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and plead with the hills, ‘Bury us.’ 31 For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

- These words were prophesied by Isaiah in 740 B.C. *Isa. 2:19*

32 Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him.

- Isaiah had prophesied that he would be crucified between two criminals. Isa. 53:12

33 When they came to a place called The Skull, [*Latin = Calvary*] they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice

[Ps 22:18 They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.]

35 The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” 36 The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. 37 They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38 A sign was fastened to the cross above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

39 One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

40 But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? 41 We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

43 And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

44 By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. 45 The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle.

- Heb. 9:1-14 & 10:19-22

46 Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!”

*[Ps 31:5. I entrust my spirit into your hand.
Rescue me, LORD, for you are a faithful God.]*

And with those words he breathed his last.

47 When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, “Surely this man was innocent.” 48 And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow. 49 But Jesus’ friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching.

[Psalm 38:11 My loved ones and friends stay away, fearing my disease. Even my own family stands at a distance.]

50 Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph. He was a member of the Jewish high council, 51 but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders. He was from the town of Arimathea in Judea, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come. 52 He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. 53 Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock.

[Isaiah 53:9 - Buried in a rich mans grave

*9 He had done no wrong
and had never deceived anyone.
But he was buried like a criminal;
he was put in a rich man's grave.]*

54 This was done late on Friday afternoon, the day of preparation, as the Sabbath was about to begin.

55 As his body was taken away, the women from Galilee followed and saw the tomb where his body was placed. 56 Then they went home and prepared spices and ointments to anoint his body. But by the time they were finished the Sabbath had begun, so they rested as required by the law.

- Here's the point – If Jesus was the prophesied Messiah then it's all true!
- There is Victory of the cross – The final sacrifice was complete.
 - Satan was defeated and man had access to God.
 - Freedom from the bondage of sin.
 - Relationship with God was permanently available.
 - Eternal life
 - The Kingdom had come to earth.