

NOTES SERMON- Palm Sunday and Passion Week- What kind of King? 4/2/2023

Δευτέρα, 27 Μαρτίου 2023 5:18 μμ

A. Introduction-

Welcome All! I wanted to thank you all for having me here again today. I would also like to thank you for your graciousness the last Lord's day.. It was my first time in the pulpit and I'm feeling much more comfortable today.

Today we have the privilege of learning about the kind of King our Lord is. We'll explore the example he provides to his Disciples and to us in the midst of the most stressful and important events leading to His execution by crucifixion.

We will reflect on the fact that as he walked to His destiny on the cross, He knew what was coming. He knew. How would we conduct ourselves and what would be our focus in such a situation?

We will see our Master's true character as we consider His interactions with the people, the leaders, the disciples and His family from the triumphal entry through the events of passion week.

Let's look at the events of passion week to see what kind of King we have.

We will consider these things of the Lord on Palm Sunday and through Passion Week as we prepare for the most important event in the Christian year. Easter- the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our key passage today is regarding the triumphal entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. We will look in John 12:12-19.

You can also read about the triumphal entry in Matthew in 21:1-11, Luke 19:29-44, and Mark 11:1-11. I would encourage you to read each and digest the different perspectives they provide.

-Context

In order to fully appreciate this passage let's take a few minutes to understand how we got to this point.

The Lord had been ministering for nearly three years before his final entry into Jerusalem.

His baptism, the gathering of His disciples, casting out of demons, healing and teaching on all things related to the kingdom of God were just some of the things during his ministry.

Think of the disciples. Three years can be a very long time with much learning especially in the days of Christ with little of the current distractions.

Imagine spending your days and nights with the Savior observing, and learning as you walk the countryside and towns to fulfill His ministry.

It is said that Jesus walked at least 3,100 miles in that three year period. This is a very conservative calculation. Imagine the countless side conversations that were had between Jesus and the disciples in

all of this ad hoc situations.

In these three years, much has occurred in His ministry including teaching in the synagogues, to the people, and to his disciples. He performed miracles and signs that including healing the blind, lepers, the maimed as well as others. He cast out demons and was tempted by Satan.

He clarified, corrected and rebuked the false teachings of His day. He showed mercy, grace and love.

In fact, it was just days before He entered Jerusalem when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead which was witnessed by many. His ministry was at its highest point as he prepared to enter Jerusalem to be the sacrificial lamb for His people.

Look with me at Luke 19:41-44 as we read about Jesus as he approached and saw Jerusalem,.

Please turn to Luke 19

Luke 19:41-44

41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Here the Lord prophecies what will become of Jerusalem because they did not know Christ's mission. Even at this point he is thinking of the people.

Here we see the Lord preparing to enter Jerusalem to meet his destiny as our sacrifice. Let us think of the burden carried by Jesus in these final days when the weight of all of our sin fell upon him.

B. The Triumphal Entry-

Now we will read our passage for today regarding the Triumphal entry. Please follow along in John 12:12-19...

John 12:12-19

The Triumphal Entry

12 The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" 14 And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written,

15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. 17 The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead

continued to bear witness. 18 The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. 19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Verses 12-13

First, let's understand that the gates of these ancient cities were the center of life. It is where business transactions, actions of the courts, and public announcements took place. We see this throughout the Bible especially in the Old Testament. The city gates were the symbol for controlling a city. To control the city gates meant to conquer the people. The gates also symbolized the city itself.

Second, the Jews expected the messiah to be a new and greater David who would lead Israel into a new age of prosperity. A political, temporal king as David was.

So they waived and spread out palm branches which symbolized victory.

They also shouted "Hosanna!" This was a praise cry meaning Help/Save I pray! Offered to a temporal king.

The other meaning of the palm branches, missed by those in the crowd, was meant for the savior of God's people and symbolized His victory over sin and death.

In Rev. 7:9 we see the redeemed rejoicing before the Lord in white robes and holding palm branches.

Revelation 7:9

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

It is fascinating to see God's redemptive plan working even with an obstinate people who think they get it- a temporal King when God has offered us so much more.

As the crowd shouted, they allude to their partial blinding when they say 'He who comes in the name of the Lord.' They only saw in part. The truth not only came in the name of the Lord but Jesus was THE Lord!

Verses 14-15

We see Jesus riding on the donkey. In other gospels we hear of how Jesus told His disciples to find the donkey and then in fulfillment of prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 we have the short quote here in the passage in John.

I would recommend you go and read the full chapter in Zechariah 9 in order to see the reference to the Lord. It goes way beyond the donkey. It talks about the Lord saving his people.

Please open to Zechariah 9. In the interest of time, we'll only review verse 9. I would like you to see

verse 9 in the context of the rest of the chapter.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Notice the use of Rejoice and shout out loud. When summarized in John, these words are indicated Fear not. This is fascinating to connect that Rejoicing greatly and shouting to the Lord is indication that these push out fear.

This messianic prophecy references this king coming to them is righteous, has salvation and is humble. This is certainly the Lord that we will review today.

This reference is dripping with symbolism. There are many references in God's word in the use of the humble donkey. The riding on the donkey symbolizes the king coming in peace, righteousness, salvation and gentleness. This can be seen in several OT references in Numbers, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, Gen 49 and the near sacrifice of Isaac. This is surely a topic to be studied further but time and focus precludes us from doing so here.

Verse 16-19

We see that the disciples did not understand all the symbolism and importance at this time. They would after his resurrection.

As we see Jesus enter Jerusalem, it would seem that everyone supported him. Supported him as long as he was to be the king they wanted. This was a king that was political, carnal. A king that would defeat the Romans.

The Pharisees were concerned for a different reason. They saw that same political challenger in who the people were turning to instead of them. Certainly they were doing Satan's bidding but they too were focused on their carnal power.

Israel was not looking for their messiah to be a spiritual leader. They saw the miracles and heard the teachings but they wanted to form him into their vision of who the messiah would be.

Does this sound familiar? Do we really want anything different of our messiah?

One of the biggest challenges in the so-called church today are those who make their own King out of the bits and pieces they pull from the text. To create an idol suited for their itching ears.

So in this passage, we see the people calling Jesus King. The passage indicates that the people were following because of His raising Lazarus from the dead. Within a few short days, many if not most, were calling for His crucifixion.

We'll now take a short survey of the key events during the passion week which will illustrate the kind of King Jesus was and is for His people.

The key here is not to remember all of the events but to understand and appreciate how active and

engaged the Lord was in His final days for our sake.

The events of passion week would bear all of this out.

Please note, that Jesus did not rest in Jerusalem each night. He entered and exited the city each day, with the exception of the night of his betrayal on Thursday night.

So on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday he did not stay in Jerusalem for rest. He headed east of Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives, Bethphage, or Bethany. Bethany being the farthest at a bit over a mile.

It would seem that He needed to be apart from the crowds to pray, rest and continue His teaching of the disciples. He did this until His final evening in Jerusalem on Thursday night.

-On Sunday- After entry, the whole town was stirred up. The blind and the lame came to Him in the temple and he healed them.

-On Monday- Arriving in Jerusalem and the temple. We see Jesus drive out the money lenders, teaching in the temple telling the crowds what must happen. As Jesus confirms his mission and asks God to glorify His name a voice from heaven thundered in response to Jesus saying 'I have glorified it and I will glorify it again.' This was done for the people there.

Jesus spoke about his crucifixion but they still did not understand. He then hid himself. They still didn't believe in him after all the signs He had done as was foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

-On Tuesday- A very busy day. From Bethany to Jerusalem. This is the final day of His public ministry.

The Fig tree withered at once as Jesus spoke and taught them to ask in faith.

The Sanhedrin, Sadducees, and Pharisees sought to trick and trap Jesus with their questions and questioned his authority and as they plotted against him. Jesus responds and confounds them so thoroughly that they stop asking questions.

Jesus then speaks the 7 woes to the Pharisees. He called them blind guides, hypocrites, whitewashed tombs, full of hypocrisy and lawlessness, serpents and a brood of vipers. He asked them 'How are you to avoid being sentenced to hell?' What do you think the focus of the Pharisees was after this confrontation? Perhaps solely on getting payback?

Jesus then illustrates the giving of the Widow. Though she gave little, she gave all.

In the afternoon on the Mount of Olives Jesus gave the Olivet discourse. He taught his Disciples about the destruction of the temple and His second coming.

In the evening Jesus moved to Bethany for the feast of Simon the Leper. Jesus again spoke to His disciples telling them what must happen with His crucifixion. Mary anointed Him for burial with expensive perfume. Jesus rebuked Judas who chastised Mary over the cost and pouring of the perfume.

-On Wednesday- While nothing is indicated in the gospels, it is believed that Judas bargained with the rulers to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus' public ministry is now over. I have to believe this was a time of rest and prayer in preparation of the events ahead.

So the Lord seems to have rested on Wednesday so let's review Sunday through Tuesday.

Much happened with the entry into Jerusalem, healing of the blind and lame, as well as the teaching of the people and the disciples. We also saw Jesus take on the religious authorities over their distorting and twisting of the law for their legalistic gain. As Jesus' public ministry concluded on Tuesday we now turn to the salvific events of Thursday and Friday.

-On Thursday- Jerusalem. The disciples prepare for the Passover. In the evening, Jesus is with His disciples in the Upper Room for the last supper- Passover.

The disciples are arguing about who would be the greatest. Jesus rebukes them and reminds them that if they want to be first, they should be the last. Jesus washes the feet of the disciples teaching them the example of serving each other. Judas is the betrayer and leaves.

Jesus institutes the memorial of bread and wine. Jesus gives the farewell discourse and gives encouragement regarding what will happen soon.

Jesus gives another discourse on the way to Gethsemane. Here He discusses that he is the true vine and that if they love him they will keep His word. He also tells the disciples that he will not leave them alone. He will send the Spirit to comfort them and remind them of all things.

Jesus prays near Gethsemane for the disciples indicating that His hour has come.

In the garden, Jesus suffers in agony at the cup before Him. Falling on His face to pray Jesus said 'My soul is very sorrowful, even unto death'. Jesus prays three times for the cup to pass but submits to the Father's will.

-On Friday long before dawn- Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus is betrayed and taken to 1- Ananias, ex-High-Priest. Father in law of Caiaphas (preliminary)

2- Caiaphas. Jesus said "From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven. Caiaphas tore robes- Blasphemy! Caiaphas said the Jesus deserves death. They spit, struck, slapped, and ridiculed Jesus.

3- The guards bound and led Jesus to Pilate.

4- Jesus tells Pilate that He was brought into this world to bear witness to the truth. Pilate asks Jesus 'What is truth.' Jesus did not answer him. After this questioning, Pilate said 'I find no guilt in him.' Pilate then sent Jesus to Herod. Herod treated Jesus with contempt and mocked him.

5- Herod then sent Jesus back to Pilate (around sunrise). Pilate feeling very uneasy sought to get out of this predicament. Pilate then gives the crowd a choice of who he should free. Jesus or Barabbas a noted criminal. The crowd chooses Barabbas and calls for Jesus to be crucified.

-Friday (6-9am). The Roman Battalion stripped Jesus and put scarlet robe on him, with a crown of thorns, and a reed in His right hand. The soldiers kneeled and mocked him, spit on him, and struck him with the reed.

They led Him away to be crucified. Jesus told women on the way to Golgotha not to weep for him but for themselves as he prophesied about the destruction of Jerusalem.

-Friday 9-noon. The soldiers gambled for His garments and nailed Him to the cross.

The multitude, the Sanhedrin, the soldiers, and even the robbers mocked him.

On the cross, Jesus commits the care of His mother to John. Jesus saves robber.

-Friday Noon-3pm. Darkness over the land. Jesus cries out 'Eli, Eli, Lema Sabachthani', My God My God why have you forsaken me- a reference to Psalm 22 which tells of the crucifixion.

Then Jesus said 'It is finished' and gave up His spirit.

At the same time, the curtain in the temple, which symbolized the separation of God and man was torn in two, top to bottom, earthquake, many of the saints raised and appeared to many. Centurion said 'Truly this was the Son of God!'

An interesting fact, the curtain or veil in the temple that was torn was torn by the hand of God and not by man.

It was comprised of blue, purple, and crimson goats hair with cherubim embroidered on it. It was 60 feet tall by 30 feet wide by 4 inches thick. The estimates are that it weighed four tons. It took 300 priests to manipulate it.

The veil being torn in half from top to bottom would have astounded people knowing the size and weight and made a clear point about the one sacrifice having been made by Christ, so the division that the veil provided was no longer necessary between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.

C. What kind of King?

We started today with the question, 'What kind of King?' After reviewing the events of the Triumphal entry and the Passion week, we see what and who Jesus focused on to show what was most important. From this review we can distill seven lessons that we can take from our Lord.

The Seven lessons

In these lessons Jesus shows us what is important.

King Jesus will return as a warrior to defeat those who rebel against him. But in his time on earth he came as a humble servant to fulfill all truth.

The Lord of the universe came to die for our sins to reconcile his children to God. He showed us His character as lessons on how we should behave as his disciples.

These examples show us how to act in the midst of the most severe trials.

We'll be looking at a number of verses in support of these lessons, so I would encourage you look these up in your Bibles as we begin. Most of these verses coming from the book of John. So let's start there.

In our time, we have become very good at justifying the softening or even the neglecting of what our Lord has commanded. So I plead with you to remember that He loves us and wants us to

follow Him.

1. Proclaim the True Gospel

John 12:23-24

23 And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Conclusions:

-Upon entry into Jerusalem and through Passion Week, Jesus continually took the opportunity to teach on what the messiah had to do for us.

-Jesus was clear, honest, complete. He offered no apologies. He was not embarrassed.

-The Gospel was key to each major discourse of Passion week. He made sure the gospel message was presented with His death and resurrection.

2. Pray

John 15:4-11

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers;

and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Conclusions:

-We must abide in Christ by prayer to be fruitful.

-Abiding in Christ will ensure our joy will be complete and full.

-Abide in Christ's love by keeping His commands.

-We can do nothing if we do not abide in Him.

-Those branches that do not abide in Christ are thrown into the fire and burned.

3. Obey

John 14:15

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:21

21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

John 14:23-24

23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

Conclusions:

- He who loves Jesus obeys by keeping his commandments and the Father will love him.
- Those who do not keep Jesus' words are not mine.
- The Father and Christ will make their home by the Spirit with those who love Jesus.

4. Love One Another

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 15:12-13

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Conclusions:

- Love others as Jesus has loved you.
- You cannot be Jesus' disciple if you do not love one another.
- Jesus explicitly commands us to love one another.
- If you love one another, people will know you are His disciples.

5. Serve Others

John 13:3-5

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:12-17

12 When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them

Conclusions:

- You must serve others as He did. The creator of the universe washed the feet of the

disciples. Do you think yourself above this?

-Be a servant of all, especially of the brethren.

-You are blessed if you know and do this because you are not better than your master.

6. Comfort/Care/Compassion

John 14:25-27

25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 19:26-27

26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Luke 23:40-43

40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Conclusions:

-The Spirit will comfort you.

-Jesus will leave His peace and give us His Spirit so we may abide in Him so our hearts are not troubled or afraid.

-Jesus was thinking of His mother from the cross.

-Jesus was thinking of others like the robber. Salvation even on the cross.

7. Do Not love the world

John 15:18-19

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 17:15-21

15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Conclusions:

- If you pursue the world, are you not of the world? I
- If you are Christ's the world will hate you.
- If you are loved by the world or love the world, how can you be Christ's?
- The Word is truth and if sanctified in it, you are not of the world.
- We are in the world because He sent us but commanded to not be of the world.
- Jesus prays for those who will believe in the future.

D. Summary/Application-

We just reviewed the events of Jesus entry into Jerusalem and the key events of the passion week. Despite knowing he was headed to His crucifixion, the Lord showed that He was focused on others in His actions. T

he seven lessons we took from our Lord: Proclaim the Gospel, Pray, Obey, Love for One Another, Serve Others, Comfort/Care/Compassion, Do not Love the World. These lessons showed us the kind of King that He is.

1. Remember this week (Sunday thru Friday)
 - a. Remember what the Lord did for us.
 - i. He humbled himself before God and man and endured humiliation.
 - ii. He lived a sinless life and gave it to reconcile us to God because of our sin.
 - b. Remember that the Lord did not shrink from His mission.
 - i. He spoke boldly about the truth of the Gospel.
 - ii. He spoke boldly to the religious leaders who led the people astray.
 - iii. He did not compromise the truth of God even unto death.
2. The Applications for all Christians
 - a. Be true to His teaching and proclaim the Gospel to friends, family and beyond especially from the pulpit
 - i. Do not be ashamed of the Gospel as so many are today.
 - ii. As Jesus did- Repentance, faith and obedience
 - b. No excuse regardless of situation and/or station for not proclaiming and living the life
 - i. After seeing what the Lord endured, how can we possibly step back from anything.
 - ii. Faithfully speak the truth in love.
 - c. Abide in Christ through prayer
 - i. Stay close to your master to avoid the evil one.
 - ii. Discipline yourself and obey.
 - d. Obey his commands to show your love
 - i. Obedience out of love is what He desires for what He has done.
 - ii. To not obey is to not be Christ's.
 - e. Love one another
 - i. He commanded us to love one another so they would know we are His disciples.
 - ii. Show grace and humility putting others before yourself.
 - f. Serve others
 - i. Those who would be first should be last.
 - ii. See others as better than yourselves.
 - g. Be compassionate, care
 - i. Be tender hearted to the weaker brother.
 - ii. Be loving to brothers and to the lost.

- iii. Listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to serve as He desires.
- h. No man can serve two masters or love the world
 - i. You cannot serve both God and money.
 - ii. God does not negotiate.

E. Conclusion-

In conclusion, we see that the Lord entered triumphantly to Jerusalem and that by the end of the week, nearly all of those praising him yelling 'Hosanna, in the Highest' had deserted him and were crying out 'Crucify Him'.

Do not be dismayed, it had to come to pass.

We see his humble gracious, loving, caring response to all of this in His actions through the week. He left us with the example of how we are to behave as well as the teachings we needed to understand all we need to know.

This is the kind of King our Lord is.

The Lord showed us, that we are all sinners and we all need salvation that only He can provide.

If you are His you have his salvation but you need to continually repent of any sin you have committed to remain in Him and abide. Pray that He will daily grant you this repentance.

For those who do not have this salvation, we pray that you will come to know your need for it.

Do not worry that your sins are many and of the reddest scarlet.

Remember all are sinners. Some have been forgiven.

Remember all those who were healed and witnessed our Master's life. All sinners.

Remember Mary Magdalene. A sinner.

Remember Peter. A sinner.

Remember all His disciples, including the rest of the apostles, who spent all this time with Jesus and still didn't understand. All sinners.

Remember Mary His mother. A sinner.

Remember the thief on the cross. A sinner.

Remember all are sinners.

All needed forgiveness and reconciliation. Our God granted it to all His children in regeneration, repentance and faith.

If you are not yet a believer, you have the same promise that He will do the same for you. If you would only bend the knee, repent, seek his forgiveness and salvation.

We who have received this gift are no better than any of you who have not yet received it. No one has ever merited, or earned salvation. It is the gift of God.

As we look ahead to the most tragic and joyous event of the resurrection, remember that the offer of salvation is for as many as were called by His name.

Remember. We all need our savior.

Remember. He is faithful. He died for you. He offers you eternal life in Him.

Seek Him while He may still be found.

'The gospel is open to all; the most respectable sinner has no more claim on it than the worst. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones.