



Sermon:

He Took The Real Thing

As I meditated on the Resurrection recently, I thought about church services on Easter Sunday. I started thinking on how I would minister the power of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. I know that many more people attend Easter services who do not normally go to church weekly. (The Easter and Christmas crowd) Most churches, from what I have seen, take this opportunity to evangelize people to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. That is great and wonderful. I am all for that. I would do the same thing.

I started thinking how I would lead up to the salvation message. It's true that Jesus died to forgive us of our sins, and because He is alive, our lives can be changed for the better. But in many of the Easter messages I have heard, there was a huge truth which I believe was overlooked. And I am not sure if it is due to a lack of knowledge or revelation in this area, or it's just not mentioned because of fear it may not be accepted.

I will always be forever grateful that Jesus willingly laid down His life so that I could be forgiven of my sins and go to Heaven someday. *"She shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sin."* Matthew 1:21

But that is not the only reason Jesus died. He died so that we could be whole and complete in every area of our lives. First, He died so that we can be DELIVERED. In Luke Chapter 8 Jesus met a demon-possessed man who had many demons. Jesus commanded the demons to leave and they did. Verse 33: "Then went the devils out of the man..." Because of Jesus' death on the cross, we have been delivered from every kind of demon there is! We have been delivered from fear, worry, anxiety, confusion, addictions, loneliness, pain, grief, etc.

He also died to give us PRESERVATION or PROTECTION. Psalm 91 is a beautiful picture of His protection on us. We do not have to ask God to protect us because He already is. We just need to know it and believe it. He also protects anything that concerns us, such as our families, our assets, etc. The angels of the Lord are encamping around us (Psalm 34:7) and they deliver us!

He died so that we can be PROSPEROUS. He took our poverty onto the cross. *"For we know the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."* 2 Corinthians 8:9 This word "rich" in the Greek translates "to have abundance in outward possessions, to be richly supplied, affluent in resources so that you can be a blessing to all." This is talking about MONEY. I do agree with those who say that we are rich in the beautiful character of the Lord and His love for us. But that is not what

this verse is talking about. It's talking about being prosperous in money and possessions so that we can help others. He died so that we can be rich.

Jesus also died for our physical healing. *"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up..."* James 5:15 The word "save" here in the Greek is translated "SOZO" which means physical healing. Many times in scripture when you see "save" or "saved" it translates "SOZO" which means that salvation which came at the death on the cross, covers EVERYTHING, including physical healing!

Sickness is a curse and it says so in Deuteronomy 28. Galatians 3:13 says that *"Christ has redeemed us from the CURSE of the law."* We have been redeemed from all sickness and disease and even from a hangnail!

Psalms 103:2-3 *"Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities and healeth all thy diseases."* Notice that forgiveness of sins and physical healing are in the same sentence. They are TOGETHER. You can't have one without the other!

You see, everything was done at the cross and yet it seems that so many people are struggling with sickness as well as other things. So what's the problem? Well, it's not God because He did all He was going to do 2,000 years ago.

By His Stripes We Are Healed

The Lord showed me something that might help you understand this better: Last year I received a beautiful Designer purse as a gift. I was a bit shocked because I knew the cost of this purse as I had admired it before. But I was also happy I received it. A couple of months later I was with a friend who had the same exact purse. (You really don't see these purses that often because of the price) So we laughed and started talking about how expensive they were. To my surprise she told me she got hers for only \$29.00! My mouth dropped. Mine was over \$150.00. But then she told me it was a knock-off or an imitation of the real designer purse. But the amazing thing about it was that they both looked exactly alike in every way. Yet I had the real thing, but she didn't.

God was showing me that His Son took the real sickness (or pain, fear, etc.) onto Himself 2,000 years ago; therefore, what sick people are experiencing is JUST AN IMITATION! The symptoms are just lies of the enemy to make you think that you are sick and that God's Word is not true. The sickness He took and the sickness you may have look exactly alike, but what you have is a FAKE because HE TOOK THE REAL THING!!!

When I finally got a revelation of this, I got angry - not at God - at the devil - the one behind it all. John 10:10 says: "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

Because of this truth, we need to come to God NOT as THE SICK trying to get well, but as the HEALED fighting off the symptoms, the lies that are trying to come against you. They have no right to take over your body because He took it all for you. This is why Jesus's body was so beat and bruised beyond recognition. Because He carried tumors, cancer, addictions, pain, etc. onto His own body. I noticed the two thieves on either side of Jesus were not bruised and beat. Why was that? Because Jesus and Jesus alone bore all of it once and for all! THAT IS LOVE.

So what must we do? Take our authority and command all that is not of God OUT! And then receive His healing in your body.

So this is how I would lead up to a salvation message. Teaching this is teaching the entire Gospel - the whole counsel of God. How could anyone turn this good news down? AMEN!