

1  **The Passion & Resurrection**2  **Happy Resurrection Day!**

- I want to focus mainly today on the death of Christ that paid for my sins.
- But I know it is Resurrection Day. So I promise to end with the encouraging word of the Resurrection.
- But first, we need to acknowledge a loss of great talent in the entertainment world.
  - Larry LaPrise, the Detroit native who wrote the song, *The Hokey Pokey* died at age 83
    - *You put your right foot in. You take your right foot out. You put your right foot in. And you shake it all about. You do the hokey pokey. And you turn yourself around. That's what it's all about.*

3  **The problem of the King Cobra**4  **A job I wouldn't want to have**

- These snakes contain enough poison to kill a large group of men.
- (Kids, don't try this at home!)
- They grow to a length of 13-19 feet
- Twice a year they must shed their skin
- Gary Richmond worked at the zoo where twice a year he had to help remove skin from an area near the eye of the cobra because the cobra had a scar there.
- If the tissue wasn't removed the cobra's eye could get infected.

5  **How you really get hurt ....**

- 1  • Needed at least 5 people for this operation – 4 to catch and hold cobra, 1 to surgically remove skin around eye
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- 2  • As the vet neared the end of his work, the curator (near the head of the snake) asked Gary to wad up some paper towels and put them in the cobra's mouth. The cobra clamped its fangs over the paper towels and chewed vigorously, as yellow poison poured forth and dripped on the ground.
  - Curator was getting weak from holding snake
  - As he said, "More people are bitten trying to let go of snakes than when they grab them! You get weak quick!"

6  **There is our problem!**

- Our problem is that we got hold of sin
- It made us weak
- Now we can't let go of it
- It is going to kill us. We know this, because 1 out of every 1 people die!
- Jesus came to free us from the Serpent!

7  **Too late my friend, too late!**

- Ebenezer Wooten – Englishman; evangelist
- Holding meeting at Lidford Brook's village green
- Young man came up after meeting and said, "Mr. Wooten, what must I do to be saved?"

- Wooten replied, "Too late, my friend, too late!"
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#### 8 **The trials begin**

- After the arrest in the middle of the night, Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas, the High Priest. A soldier struck Jesus across the face for remaining silent when questioned by Caiaphas. The palace guards then blindfolded him and mockingly taunted Him to identify them as they each passed by, spat on Him, and struck Him in the face.
- Jews condemn him but can't legally execute them, so they take him to Pilate
- Pilate tries to push Jesus off on Herod
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#### 9 **Friday morning, 7 – 8:30 a.m.**

- Pilate had previously sent Jesus to Herod, hoping that Herod would deal with him. But Herod sends Jesus back to Pilate.
- Pilate now sees his soldiers returning from Herod with Jesus. His plan to pass the whole matter off on Herod has failed, but it did make Pilate and Herod friends that day.
- Pilate now knows that although Jesus is innocent, it could cost him his job--even his life--if news of discontent reached the ears of the maniacal emperor Tiberius Caesar.
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#### 10 **Friday morning, 7 – 8:30 a.m.**

- In the early morning, Jesus, battered and bruised, dehydrated, and exhausted from a sleepless night, is taken across Jerusalem to the Praetorium of the Fortress Antonia.
- Pilate first orders Jesus scourged in hopes that this will satisfy the blood-thirsty crowd.

#### 11 **The scourging**

- The prisoner is stripped of His clothing and His hands tied to a post above His head.
- The Roman legionnaire steps forward with the flagrum in his hand. This is a short whip consisting of several heavy, leather thongs with two small balls of lead attached near the ends of each.

#### 12 **The scourging (2)**

- The heavy whip is brought down with full force again and again across Jesus' shoulders, back and legs.
- Only then, as the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles. The small balls of lead first produce large, deep bruises which are broken open by subsequent blows.

#### 13 **Jesus takes the worst from man**

Matthew 27:27-29 -- *Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.*

14  **Jesus takes the worst from man (2)**

Mark 15:16-20 -- *And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. {Praetorium: or, the palace, or, hall of audience} And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.*

15  **A sick humour**

- The Roman soldiers see a great joke in the provincial Jew claiming to be a king. They throw a robe across His shoulders and place a stick in His hand for a scepter. A small bundle of flexible branches covered with long thorns is pressed into His scalp.
- Again there is copious bleeding. After mocking Him and striking Him across the face, the soldiers take the stick from His hand and strike Him across the head, driving the thorns deeper into His scalp.
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16  **800 yards of pain and exhaustion**

- 800 yards from Pilate's courtyard to Calvary
- Jesus is physically and emotionally weak already:
  - The agony of the garden -- hematidrosis
  - No sleep during trials
  - Abandonment by those whom He loved
  - Numerous beatings
  - No sustenance or drink
  - The scourging
  - The loss of blood

17  **800 yards of pain and exhaustion**18  **A final sermon on weeping**

- Luke 23:27-31 -- *And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. 28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. 29 For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. 30 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. 31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?*
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19  **At Golgotha**20  **Friday, 9:00 a.m.**

- *And when they brought Him to the place called the Skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha, they offered him vinegar to drink, mixed with myrrh; but when He tasted it He would not drink it. There they crucified Him; and it was about nine o'clock.*
  - *The Gospel of Christ in Stereo* (Matthew 27:33; Mark 15:22-25; Luke 23:32-33; John 19:17-

18)

- The soldiers are now offering Jesus a painkiller, but He refuses.
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21  **The agony of the cross foretold**

- Psalm 22:16 -- *they have pierced my hands and my feet.*
- Psalm 22:14 -- *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.*
  - Some of the bones (likely the shoulder and elbow joints) come out of socket.
  - His blood is thickened from dehydration and his pericardium is filling up with fluid that is crushing his heart. His strength is failing fast.
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22  **The agony of breathing**

23  **Christ prays for our forgiveness**

- *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*
- Have you ever been bitter toward someone because they said something hurtful to you or falsely accused you?
  - What did it make you want to do?
  - Yet Jesus prays for the forgiveness of people who haven't even asked for His forgiveness!

24  **He converts a thief**

- Matthew 27:41-44 -- *Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.*

25  **He converts a thief (2)**

- Jesus' behavior on the cross changes the perspective of one thief.
- Luke 23:39-44 -- *And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

26  **A supernatural darkness**

- Jesus has hung on the cross from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Starting at noon (brightest part of the day, normally), the area around the cross is engulfed in a supernatural darkness.
- It is at this moment that Jesus quotes Psalm 22:1 -- *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*

27  **A double darkness (part 1)**

- Matthew 22:13 -- *Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*
  - Note that this punishment came to those who refused an invitation to the wedding feast

by the king.

– So part of the darkness at the cross was God the Father turning His back on God the Son. Why?

– 2 Corinthians 5:21 -- *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

#### 28 **A double darkness (part 2)**

- Darkness is also demonic. Revelation 9:2 -- *And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*
- Colossians 2:13-15 -- *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

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#### 30 **Jesus declares His work is done**

- *It is finished!*
- These words occur on three occasions in the New Testament:
  - The Redemption of Mankind (on the cross)
  - The Retribution of the Savior (God pouring out His judgment on Babylon, the Mother of Harlots in Revelation 16)
  - The Reward of the Faithful (Revelation 21)

#### 31 **Jesus prays His final prayer**

- The compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues-- the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to gasp in small gulps of air. The markedly dehydrated tissues send their flood of stimuli to the brain. Jesus gasps, "I thirst."
- Psalm 22:15 -- *My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.*
- Now Jesus takes a drink – only so that we can clearly hear Him make His final prayer to commit His spirit to the Father. *Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit.*

#### 32 **The darkness lifted**

- Scripture tells us the darkness lasts until 3 p.m. That seems to imply that it lifted after the

death of Christ.

- Most people were just bewildered and frightened by the darkness.
- But there were 2 groups of people that reacted differently based on their distance from the cross

33  **Matthew 27:54-56**

- *Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.*
- *And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him: Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.*

34  **What happened close to the cross?**

- Colossians 2:14-15 -- *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*
- I believe there was a perceptible change in the spiritual darkness around the cross when the Savior died.

35  **Did Jesus really die?**

- To make double sure of death, the legionnaire in charge of the execution drove his lance through the fifth interspace between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into the heart. Immediately there came out blood and water (serum) separately.
- This is conclusive post-mortem evidence that Jesus died, not by the usual crucifixion death by suffocation, but of heart failure due to shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the pericardium.

36  **What happens next?**

- Simply put, 3 days later the tomb is empty.
- The government and Jews tried to ensure no one could steal the body:
  - They had a Roman watch (36 Roman soldiers trained be able to fight off 600 men)
  - They had the Sanhedrin guard (estimated to be between 80-120 men)
  - They sealed the tomb
- And the best excuse they could find to explain the empty tomb on Sunday was "Something happened while we were asleep!"

37  **Were there witnesses?**

- Today, many try to say that the body of Jesus was misplaced, stolen, or that He never really died.
- They call the resurrection a fable.
- But let's convene a trial and call as witnesses every individual who saw Jesus alive after the resurrection.
  - If we held court 24 hours / day with no breaks and let each witness testify only 15 minutes each, it would take over 128 hours to hear. (So if we started today, we would finish early Friday morning.)

38  **How should you respond?**

- Ask Jesus to lift the darkness
- Receive the risen Savior as your Lord and master
- Share the darkness-lifting light of Christ with others, like Edith Burns did
- Let me close with someone who can say it better than I can and then I'll turn the invitation over to the pastor.

39  **That's My King!**