

On Friday, things looked bad,
really bad!

1. On Friday the disciples faith was so weak that most of them were afraid to show their faces in public.

2. On Friday Pilate delivered Jesus over to the Roman soldiers, who took turns beating, whipping, and scourging Him unmercifully.

3. On Friday they made Him carry His own cross through the streets of Jerusalem, and the people lined the sides of the road cursing and spitting on Him.

4. On Friday they stripped Jesus of all of His clothing and dignity and nailed Him to the cross like a common criminal.

5. On Friday the Roman soldiers made fun of Him and put a sign over His head that said “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

6. On Friday the sins of the world were weighing heavy on Jesus.

7. On Friday it appeared as if God had abandoned His only begotten Son. Jesus Himself said, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

8. On Friday Jesus was not only crucified but was humiliated in every way possible.

9. On Friday darkness covered the land and the Prince of Darkness couldn't have been more pleased, because he believed he had won a great victory by killing the Son of God.

10. On Friday they took Jesus off the cross and laid Him in a borrowed tomb. All of the hopes and dreams of His disciples were buried with Him.

But that was Friday! When
Sunday morning arrived,
everything changed!

1. On Sunday God demonstrated the fact that He had not abandoned His Son on the cross by raising Him from the dead.

2. On Sunday Jesus walked out of the tomb with His head held high knowing that He had finished the work His heavenly Father sent Him to do.

Philippians 2:5-11 “Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,

even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

3. On Sunday Jesus' resurrection demonstrated that Satan had not defeated Him, but instead Jesus had won the victory over Satan, sin, death, and the grave.

I Corinthians 15:54-57 “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

4. On Sunday when Jesus appeared to the disciples their faith was strengthened and they would never be the same again. On Friday they were afraid of their own shadows, but on Sunday their faith made them strong and courageous.

5. On Sunday the Light of the world dispelled the darkness that had covered the earth since Friday. This Light gave the disciples a renewed hope and purpose.

So what does all of this mean
to us today?

In a lot of ways, even though it has been 2000 years since Jesus rose from the dead, it still feels like Friday.

1. It feels like Friday for some of you who are struggling with the recent loss of a loved one and you are overcome with grief.

Revelation 21:3-4 “Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look! God’s dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will no longer exist; grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer, because the previous things have passed away.”

2. It feels like Friday for some of you who feel abandoned by God. You feel like He has forgotten your name and your needs.

Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and courageous; don’t be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the Lord your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you.”

Philippians 4:19 “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

3. It feels like Friday for some of you who are discouraged with a sense of hopelessness.

4. It feels like Friday for some of you who are carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders.

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to Me all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

THE GOSPEL

1. All men are sinners, in need of a Savior.

Romans 3:10-12, 23 “As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become useless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

2. Jesus and the cross are the only way to salvation.

John 14:6 “Jesus told him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Acts 4:12 “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people, and we must be saved by it.”

Romans 5:8 “But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!”

1 Peter 2:24 “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; you have been healed by His wounds.”

3. We are commanded to repent and trust in faith.

Acts 17:30 “Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.”