

# EASTER 2023

Pastor Oscar Chavez

HE IS RISEN!!!

The resurrection is so powerful that without the resurrection there would be NO Christianity

*1 Corinthians 15:13-20 NLT*

*For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead...*

**There is No Victory Without the Struggle**

**Can't be victorious if you never compete - To enjoy the reward you must endure the process**

**To sing victorious at the podium you must have gone through the pain of hard training**

**Your greatest victory is on the other side of your greatest struggle.**

**NO PAIN – NO GAIN**

**Friday** was a day of betrayal, abandonment, pain, suffering and agony

**Saturday** was a day of lost, confusion, and misery

**Sunday** was a day of joy, celebration, and victory

What did Jesus go through exactly to get to His Sunday and to experience the victory by the power of the resurrection?

## **I. FRIDAY. For Jesus.**

Mark 14:32

*Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane,*

<sup>34</sup> *He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."*

<sup>37</sup> *Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you watch with me even one hour?"*

Mark. 14.

<sup>31</sup> *"No!" Peter declared emphatically. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the others vowed the same.*

Mark 14:67-72. ....

V. 72 *And he broke down and wept....*

## **II. SATURDAY. For the disciples.**

A Day of:

- Doubt.
- Fear.      John 20:19 *the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.*
- Faith.
- Sadness, loneliness, confusion ....

But Sunday was coming!!!      And only Jesus can give you a Sunday like no other!!!

### III. **SUNDAY.** After all that struggle and pain and failures, Sunday changes it all for both...

1. The resurrection defeated their fears, forgave them of the past and gave them victory in their present and hope for their future...

- Mark 16:7

*Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee.*

- Isaiah 43:18-19

<sup>18</sup> *“But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.*

<sup>19</sup> *For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?*

*I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

- <sup>v.25</sup> *“I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again.*

- Micah 7:19

<sup>19</sup> *Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!*

2. The resurrection defeated their Fears and gave them confidence in Jesus.

John 20:19 *the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid*

Matthew 11:28-30

<sup>28</sup> *Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*

3. The resurrection defeated their confusion and gave them clarity.

Luke 24,

<sup>31</sup> *Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.*

4. The resurrection defeated their doubt and gave them Faith.

Doubts can take the peace from you and keep you awake.

5. The resurrection defeated a meaningless life and gave them a new Purpose

**Their lives were changed for real when they saw Jesus....**

#### HOW DID THE APOSTLES DIE?

1. **Matthew**, by a sword wound.

2. **Mark**, being dragged by Horses through the streets until he was dead.

3. **Luke**, was hanged in Greece

4. **John**, he was boiled in huge Basin of boiling oil. He died as an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully

5. **Peter**, he was crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross.

6. **James**, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

7. **James the Son of Zebedee**, was beheaded at Jerusalem.

8. **Bartholomew**, he was flayed to death for his preaching in Armenia.

9. **Andrew**, was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece.

10. **Thomas**, was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the Sub-continent.

11. **Jude**, was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

12. **Matthias**, the apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot was stoned and then beheaded.

13. **Paul**, was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67.