

# Victory in Jesus

December 17th 2006

## Jesus' Triumphal Entry

If we are given a choice between victory or defeat, I think we would all chose victory. At the end of Jesus' life there is a large celebration held for him as he enters Jerusalem.

### Matthew 27:7-11

Their actions and words point to his identity as the Messiah and coming victory:

- **Donkey** was one of Zechariah's signs of the messiah (Zech 9:9).
- **Placing cloaks on the donkey**—great sign of respect.
- **Words**—honor Jesus as a deliverer— "Hosanna" or "Save now!"

But just a few chapters later we find Jesus facing another crowd. Matthew 27 records Jesus' trial before Pilate.

## Jesus' Trial

### Matthew 27:15-26

*How could people change from shouting "Hosanna" to shouting "Crucify Him" so quickly?*

- Misunderstanding of what type of Messiah he was supposed to be.
- They thought the Messiah would not allow himself to be arrested and tried by the Romans. He would say something. He would defeat them and this guy stands there and doesn't say a word. How could he be the Messiah?

*How did Jesus' death on the cross appear to be a defeat?*

- It is not easy to look at a crucified man on a cross and believe he is the Messiah and savior of the world.
- The Messiah is supposed to look victorious and Jesus looks defeated!
- No one to date had found victory on a cross.
- There was only one outcome for those who were put on a cross—death.

*But how was Jesus' death on the cross a victory?*

- He conquered death
- He paid the price for our sins
- He showed us how much he loves us

*How does Jesus' willingness to endure such suffering show us how much he really loves us?*

- If he didn't go through it, we would have to go through even worse.
- His death paid the ultimate price for our sins.
- Being on a cross is shameful and embarrassing. He took it all for us when he didn't have to.
- He knew how painful it would be and how humiliating it would be on the cross but he did it anyway.

## Jesus' Love Through Suffering

## Victory Through Resurrection

*Have you ever had a time in your life when defeat turned into victory?*

*What two promises did Jesus make to his disciples would happen to him after he died?*

- Mark 8:31—three days after his death he would rise again!
- John 14:1-4 He would come again and bring us to heaven.

Often when we talk about “Victory in Jesus” we think about two things:

- 1) His death
- 2) The second coming.

The song Victory in Jesus leaves out the resurrection. It goes from talking about his suffering to our being with him in heaven. There is something extremely important in between those two things that bridges them and makes heaven possible—resurrection!

### Matthew 27:62-28:10

They remembered Jesus’ words — “After three days I will rise again.” *Jesus was crucified on a Friday and rose again early on Sunday, how is that three days?*

- Friday = 1, Saturday = 2, Sunday = 3

### Matthew 28:1-10

*How is Jesus’ resurrection different than the resurrection of people like Lazarus?*

- Jesus had power over death. Lazarus was risen by Jesus’ power.
- Lazarus died again. Jesus will never die again.
- This miracle was different than all the rest. All the other people Jesus healed would get sick again one day and die. Jesus would never get sick and he would never die again—**Romans 6:10**— “The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.”

## Hope Through the Resurrection

*How does Jesus’ victory over death give us hope?*

- We now have hope that through him, death will have no hold on us.
- We know he will come again
- **1 John 3:1-3**

*How does John say we are to react to the hope we have in Jesus’ resurrection?*

- By purifying our lives.

*Why would purifying our lives be an important part of our hope in the resurrection?*

- The resurrection changes our lives. It changes our future. It changes our hope and our direction.
- Purity is important in keeping our relationship with him right.
- We know he is coming back for us and he wants us to live for him.

## Victory Through the 2nd Coming

### Revelation 22:20 & John 14:1-4

*How is Jesus’ second coming a victory?*

- There will be no more sadness or death
- We will be with God forever!
- The purpose of all of creation will be fulfilled and all things will be made right.

*How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope that he will also make good on his promise of his return?*

- If he is able to conquer death then he is able to come back for us.

## Application

*What excites you the most about Jesus' return?*

*What are you looking forward to the most about heaven?*

*How does this hope encourage you to live a more holy life today?*

*How does the news of Jesus' victory over death and his promise of return help spur us on to tell more people about Jesus?*

- Jesus is the only source of life and the only hope of life after death. If people don't have Jesus they are without hope and need to be reached.

Let our faith in Christ and his return spur us on to be more about his business and less about our own. Let it be an encouragement to us on a daily basis that we can live cheerful lives because no matter what this world throws at us we have a better life ahead with God.

## Put it Into Practice

Make a list of some big victories that have happened in your life because of God answering your prayers. Take a few moments to thank him for the victories he has provided in the past, present, and even in the future when he comes again.