

The unfolding of Easter

What does this picture declare to us?

Romans 1: 1-6; John 19: 14-37

As an examiner of the events of the crucifixion, it is extremely interesting to figure out why the events unfolded as they did. I would like to examine the events leading up to, the events of, and the events surrounding the crucifixion.

When God decided to save the world, He knew exactly what picture He would paint even before the foundation of the world...

Let's see just how he painted this picture...?

- Lazarus Rose – Declaring His power over death!
- Simon the Lepers house – Displaying Lazarus
- Palm Sunday – Surrendering publicly
- 4 days of examination
- Passover/Communion – Declaring the price of Communion with God
- Gethsemane – Place of the Press – Declared Jesus' struggle
- Betrayal/Offense – The Power of Offense declared – Matthew 26: 31, 33 three times...
- Denial/Offense – The Power of Offense declared
- 3 Trials – The Innocence of Jesus Declared
- Barabbas – Declared Substitute
- Beaten by the Romans – Scape Goat lamb
- Blood on our children – Ch. 27: 25 Future of the Jews Declared
- Pilate washes his Hands – Desire to be exempt
- Simon Cyrene/carried the cross – Cross-bearing
- Vinegar mingled with Gaul – Attempt to deter
- Golgotha – place of the skull
- King of the Jews written in 3 languages – Hebrew/Greek/Latin – for all mankind

- 7 Statements
 1. My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me? – Matthew and Mark
 2. Father forgive them; for they know not what they do – Luke
 3. Verily, I say unto you, today thou shalt be with Me in paradise – Luke
 4. Father, into thy hands I commend My spirit – Luke
 5. Woman behold thy son, Son behold thy mother – John
 6. I thirst – Luke
 7. It is finished – Luke
- Between two thieves – Two decisions – Eternity Present
- Between God and man – Bridge to Heaven
- Between Heaven and Hell – Two Destinations
- On the cross – Crossroads of decision
- Gambled for His robe – Selfishness of mankind declared
- Died at 3 in the afternoon – Evening sacrifice of the Passover
- On a Tree John 19: 41 *“Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus”* In a Garden
- Crown of Thorns/Abraham
- For God so Loved/Eden
- Resurrection/Saved

In John 19: 15, those who rejected Jesus had a few words: “We have no king but Caesar”, therefore rejecting Jesus as their King! Matthew 27: 25 records those who rejected Jesus as saying *“let his blood be on us and on our children”*

But one of the Roman soldiers said, *“Truly this was the Son of God”*.

Most of His closest followers left Him, but John, Mary, her sister Mary and Mary Magdalene were right there when He died... Most of the Pharisees rejected Him, but Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathaea did not, they came to the grave and put it all on the line for Jesus...

On Easter Morning when most were scattered, Mary and Mary Magdalene came to the tomb to anoint the body...

They had ***but one chance to declare themselves*** and we look at the declaring they made. How will you and I ***use our one chance to declare ourselves***, our role, our commitment...?

What does it all mean?

1. That God cares about us, this much!
2. That the blood of Jesus has been shed willingly for us!
3. That we do not have to die, the direction of the soul is now up to you!
4. There is life after death for those who come to Jesus and surrender to Him!
5. For those who do not become His followers, there is only death and destruction!

What does all this mean? It means God is reaching out to me... with the Arm of His Grace!

God's love on display and God's Arm in motion???

Romans 1: 5-6

- God's Grace is the vehicle that God has used to reach us. Faith we have, Grace comes to us!

Romans 12: 3 – God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith and that is a great gift but with this faith comes the reaching arm of Grace!

Let's Examine this Principle of Grace –

- God's word tells us that, Grace is a free gift...

Ephesians 2: 8 *“For by Grace are we saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift from God.”*

- Where Grace is there is God's Power – The New Testament Church had Great power when they were experiencing Great Grace

Acts 4: 33 *“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.”*

- God gives more Grace to the humble!

In James 4: 6, James warns – *“but he giveth more grace, wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”* Therefore, God allows problems in our lives to humble us so that He can give us more of His Grace!

- God's Grace is delivered as a gift by Christ Jesus personally

John 1: 17 *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” “Grace is a gift from Christ Jesus”*

Ephesians 4: 7 *“...unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.”*

- But if or when we reject God's Grace, what happens? Bad things happen

Hebrews 12: 15 *“Looking Diligently, lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;”*

If and when we resist (fail) of the Grace of God, we find trouble, bitter trouble not only for ourselves but for others in our world of influence...

- But we must be careful that we do not resist the Grace of God. James tells us that when the grace of God is rejected evil comes upon us and more than just evil, he calls it Lasciviousness (extreme evil) and then in this evil atmosphere, we turn away in denial!

James 1: 4 *“For there are certain men crept in unawares who were before old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- God is reaching out to us with Great Grace... This action by God has accompanied the action of Calvary displaying the Love of God. The love of God on display would not mean much to humans if the Grace of God did not stir their heart to want to come to the cross and yield to the powers brought to us. What will your response be?
- But those who reject/ignore the acts of Christ Jesus' life and think by the works of the Law they have eternal life... they have fallen from Grace... Romans 5: 4

But what about we Christians, what do we need to worry about?

- The Problems with true Believers is that we have expected Grace to do what it was not sent to do... excuse our Rebellion.

Romans 6: 15 *“...Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness.”*

- We must also as Christians not be fooled by those who have crept into the Church, crept in unaware who have turned the grace of God into lasciviousness (extreme evil), and in turn deny the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 1: 4)
- But to the Christian Grace is a gift... He has called us, Grown us, and Comforted us... Remember Paul's thorn in the flesh... My Grace is sufficient for thee... 2nd Corinthians 12: 7

What will you do with Jesus? What will you do with the Cross and Jesus? What will we do with the Grace of Faith given to every person? What will we do with the Grace of Jesus?