

"WAITING FOR THE SON TO RISE"

TEXT: Matt.27:66-28:6

THESIS: To show the dark period between "Good Friday" and "Easter Sunday."

INTRO.: A. As usual on "Good Friday" the TV news media reported on the "*most somber day on the Christian calendar*" and showed the typical Roman Catholic and ecumenical churches in the area observing their dark services. (*When we have a "Good Friday service it is anything but somber! We rejoice in the death of our Savior which provided salvation for us!*)

B. It is true that in the "3 days & 3 nights" between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection the disciples of our Savior were in "limbo" and fearful. It was indeed a somber time. They thought their Lord was dead without hope. They had not yet comprehended His statements to the contrary.

C. Sadly Catholic churches which each year reenact the experience of Calvary, *remove* the image of Christ from the crucifix and then after Good Friday nail that image back on the cross!

D. Actually the disciples were simply **"WAITING FOR THE SON TO RISE"** even though they might not have understood the promises He made to them. Of course we don't have to wait, for the event of the resurrection is in the past for us.

ILLUS.: Churches worldwide today will celebrate Easter sunrise services. *Mainly because Christ came out of the tomb "upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning." Lk.24:1* Thank God we don't have to sit around **"WAITING FOR THE SON TO RISE"** for *"He is risen as He said!"* But it is true that...

I. CRUCIFIXION PRECEDED RESURRECTION:

A. The Cross Then the Resurrection:

1. In God's plan Christ had to suffer for our sins before He could be our Savior.
 2. In the counsels of God there could be no crowning day for Him or us without His death for us.
- a. The darkness that shrouded the earth & the disciples hearts as He hung on the cross was necessary as they were **"WAITING FOR THE SON TO RISE! (whether they believed it or not!)"**
 - b. The fear & terror of the Messiah of Israel hanging on the cross & *being "made a curse for us"* is nullified by the fact & act of His resurrection on **day the Son arose!**

ILLUS.: All the hopes of Israel & mankind were temporarily impaled on a rugged cross. All hope was gone! The apostles & disciples were in hiding and in despair. But hope returned again 3 days later when **"very early in the morning on the first day of the week" the Son rose!**

B. The Woe – Then the Worship:

1. Peter had to come to the end of himself & see his failure before he could serve the Savior.
2. Thomas had to deny the reality of the resurrection and see the futility of walking by sight before he could fall on his face & cry out **"my Lord & my God!"**
3. The disciples had to have their selfishness & greed exposed & learn to only trust in Him before they could truly follow Him!

ILLUS.: We too need to come to the end of ourselves before our faith will become a reality. Sometimes our sin is what it takes to get us on our knees. Our failures help us to see our weakness & need of Him. Sometimes true worship only results when we come to the end of ourselves.

II. GLOOM PRECEDED EXCITEMENT:

A. Calvary's Midnight – Then Easter's Sunrise:

1. God shrouded the earth in blackness for 3 long hours while the Son was separated from the Father.
2. God shielded the eyes of sinful men with a cloak of darkness **while "the Son of righteousness"** was eclipsed because of our sin.

B. Death & Despair – Then the Hope of Heaven:

1. Death is a necessity before resurrection can become a reality.

- a. Jesus said: *"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground & die, it abideth alone; but if it DIE, it bringeth forth much fruit." Jn.12:24*
- b. Paul said: *"Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it DIE." 1 Cor.15:36*

NOTE: How we fear death! But it is the doorway to heaven! It is the vehicle of resurrection & eternal life.

2. The grave is the gateway to glory.

- a. On 3 occasions Jesus interrupted funerals to resurrect dead loved ones.
- b. The gloom of the funeral procession preceded the hallelujahs of the resurrection celebration and so it will be when we too are raised from the dead!

III. DEFEAT PRECEDED REJOICING:

A. The Gory Scene – Then the Glory Scene:

ILLUS.: The gory scenes of the mock trials, the scourging, the scorn, the nailing, the raising of His bloody body on the cross, the nakedness, the madness, the religious hypocrisy and even the fleeing of His own disciples, along with all the suffering on the Cross itself had to precede the miracle of the resurrection.

B. The Horror of Friday – Then the Hallelujahs of Sunday!

ILLUS.: From the tape "Sunday's a comin' " by Dr. Anthony Campollo: A Good Friday service in a black Phila. Baptist Church. The deacon's sit up front: "Preach it!" "Go on!" "Keep Goin!" The women: "Weeell!" etc. Campollo preached first & said: "I was GOOD! The place blew up! The pastor said: "You did all right, boy!" Campollo asked: "Think you can top that?" The pastor said: "Son, son...just you sit back & you watch." For ¾ of an hour he preached a simple sermon: "It's Friday, Sunday's A Comin' " He started slow & built to a fever pitch...

- It's Friday...soldiers bind Him & lead Him away...but Sunday's a comin!"
- The whip lashes His back...thorns crown His brow, but that's because its Friday...Sunday's a comin!
- The spittle runs down His face...they pluck out His beard...its Friday...Sunday's a comin!"
- Jesus is hanging on a cross, blood spurts from His wounds...its Friday...
- Mary is crying her eyes out, the disciples are running around like sheep w/out a Shepherd...
- Pilate is washing his hands, the Roman soldiers are prancing around w/their spears...
- Satan's dancing a jig; the Govt. had done his bidding, the business world cooperates, he is in control now
- Jesus is dead , His body is prepared for burial and bathed in tears...but that's because it's Friday...
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He said the black preacher played that theme over & over: **"It's Friday, Sunday's a comin!"** over & over...

Finally he yelled "FRIDAY!" The crowd was built to a fever pitch & yelled back in unison: "SUNDAY'S COMIN!" That is the message of our theology. It's dark now because we look at things and see the gloom of Friday.

But what we need to look at is that Sunday's a comin! In fact it's here.

We are no longer **"WAITING FOR THE SON TO RISE!" HE IS RISEN!**

CONCL.: Things often look black now...but Sunday's a comin! The unsaved mock us now...sin & death take their toll now...defeat, discouragement and despair reign now...the devil & the world seem to be winning now...today things look black & bleak...today poverty prevails...today it is as dark as midnight...but **that's because it's Friday, SUNDAY'S A COMIN!**

Unsaved, you can continue to live on Friday with a dead Savior either hanging on a cross or lying in a tomb **"WAITING FOR THE SON TO RISE"** but that is futile because ***He is risen & He lives*** & you may live also. Why not trust the only Savior, God's only begotten Son right now?!