

SLIDE - Interactive Question #1

Q. What does Easter mean to you?

- A. It's a time for family and fun
- B. It's my once a year obligation to attend church
- C. It's just another weekend at The Rock
- D. It's my opportunity to remember what Jesus did for me

This weekend we REMEMBER the CRUCIFIXION & CELEBRATE the RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ

- **NO ONE has EVER BEEN as DOWN as JESUS.**
- **NO ONE EVER SUFFERED AS MUCH as HE DID**
- **HE was BRUTALIZED in front of HIS MOTHER.**
- **HE was SMOTHERED with the SINS of the WORLD,**
- **& DIED FOR EACH ONE OF THEM.**

He then **WENT DOWN** to **KICK IN** the **GATES** of **HELL**

- He **KNOWS** what it's like to **BE DOWN**, but **NOT OUT**
- HE was **TEMPTED** in **EVERY AREA** we have been, but **NEVER GAVE IN TO SIN**
- . . .
- **HE'S the "GOD of the COMEBACK!"**

SLIDE—MESSAGE TITLE: GREAT COMEBACKS - Pt. 2

- As we are **STUDYING** the **BOOK** of **MARK** . . .
- . . . we are **NOW IN** the **LAST WEEK** of the **EARTHLY MINISTRY** of **JESUS**.
- **HE'S COME to JERUSALEM to DIE.**
- **HE'S TRYING to PREPARE HIS DISCIPLES TO LIVE.**

SLIDE—Mark 12:1-2

Then Jesus began telling them stories: *"A man planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower.*

SLIDE—Mark 12:1-2

"Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. At grape-picking time he sent one of his servants to collect his share of the crop.

- The **VINEYARD** is **USED in the OLD TESTAMENT** as a **PICTURE OF ISRAEL** (Isaiah 5:1-7).
- The **TENANT FARMERS REPRESENT THE RULERS OF ISRAEL . . .**
- . . . & the **VINEYARD REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE OF GOD** as a **WHOLE**.

SLIDE—Mark 12:3

"But the farmers grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed.

SLIDE—Mark 12:4

"The owner then sent another servant, but they beat him over the head and treated him shamefully.

SLIDE—Mark 12:5-7

“The next servant he sent was killed. Others who were sent were either beaten or killed, until there was only one left—his son whom he loved dearly.

SLIDE—Mark 12:5-7

“The owner finally sent him, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’ But the farmers said to one another, ‘Here comes the heir to this estate. Let’s kill him and get the estate for ourselves!’

SLIDE—Mark 12:8

“So they grabbed him and murdered him and threw his body out of the vineyard.”

VIDEO – TIM’S VIDEO - “PASSION WEEK” – 5 MINS.

- **JESUS is GOD’S FINAL MESSENGER.**
 - . . . There will **BE NO OTHER.**
 - Either we **ACCEPT the MESSAGE of the SON,** or **FACE CERTAIN JUDGMENT.**
 - If WE **DO NOT HEAR JESUS,** **WE HAVE REFUSED OUR LAST HOPE.**
 - **JESUS is GOD’S ULTIMATUM.**
 - We have **NO WAY** to make a **COMEBACK** w/o HIM.
 - **NOTHING REMAINS** when **HE IS REFUSED.**
 - **NO ONE ELSE CAN BE SENT;**
- HEAVEN itself CONTAINS NO FURTHER MESSENGER**

- **“SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN” STORY**

- **IF JESUS IS REJECTED . . . HOPE IS REJECTED.**

SLIDE - Interactive Question #2

Q. Is Jesus Christ the Lord of your life?

A. No, I have not yet surrendered my life to Him

B. No, not right now

C. I go in and out of following Jesus

D. I have surrendered my life to Jesus, as much as I know how

SLIDE—Mark 12:9—Jesus continues the parable,

“What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do?” Jesus asked. “I’ll tell you—he will come and kill them all and lease the vineyard to others.

SLIDE—Mark 12:10-11

“Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone rejected by the builders has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous to see.’”

- **When we were in JERUSALEM LAST YEAR, we went to the WAILING WALL.**

SLIDE—WAILING WALL

SLIDE—TUNNEL COMPLEX

- We went into a **TUNNEL COMPLEX** that only **A FEW GET TO ENTER.**

- We then went in & down, & **SAW STONES THAT ARE the LARGEST in the WORLD.**
- One was **570 TONS = OVER a MILLION POUNDS**

SLIDE–TUNNEL COMPLEX

- Traveling along the **Edge of the Wall Underground, WE CAME to the ACTUAL STREET LEVEL of CHRIST'S TIME**

2X - SLIDE–CORNERSTONE of TEMPLE

- There was an **UNFINISHED STONE** that was **PART OF the BEDROCK of MOUNT MORIAH, JUTTING OUT into WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN the STREET,**
- . . . which was a **STREET RIGHT NEXT to the TEMPLE** that **would have been VERY FAMILIAR to EVERYONE in CHRIST'S DAY.**
- It **HAD BEEN WORKED ON,** because **YOU COULD SEE THE CHISEL MARKS.**
- And it **SEEMED TO COMPRISE a PART of the CORNER FOUNDATION of the TEMPLE.**
- It looked like **SOME ONE WAS DRESSING IT TO BE USED AS A STONE, & THEN STOPPED.**
- Our guide, **HYUVAL SHARED** that **THIS MAY HAVE BEEN what JESUS WAS REFERRING TO** when He said, **"The STONE Which The BUILDERS REJECTED Has BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE."**
- It was **JUST LIKE JESUS TO USE EXAMPLES FROM EVERYDAY LIFE,**
- **YOU CAN REJECT JESUS TODAY, BUT HE IS STILL THE CORNERSTONE OF LIFE.**

SLIDE–Mark 12:12

The Jewish leaders wanted to arrest Him for using this illustration because they realized He was pointing at them—they were the wicked farmers in His story. But they were afraid to touch Him because of the crowds. So they left Him and went away.

- Like one of our Interns, **DAVID OTHIENO,** did last week, in each of our lives, **JESUS WILL COME & SHARE some VERY CONVICTING THINGS WITH US.**
- . . . **EITHER we are GOING TO EMBRACE GOD'S CHALLENGES & be HUMBLLED BY THEM . . .**
- **Or we are going to HARDEN OUR HEARTS & MISS a GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY to YIELD to HIS SPIRIT.**

SLIDE – Mark 12:13

The leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to try to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested.

- **FORMER ENEMIES BEGIN to WORK TOGETHER.**

SLIDE–Mark 12:14

"Teacher," these men said, "we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don't play favorites. You sincerely teach the ways of God. Now tell us—is it right to pay taxes to the Roman government or not?"

- **Be CAREFUL WHEN PEOPLE TRY & FLATTER YOU.**
- **"A FLATTERING WORD WORKS RUIN" Prov. 26:28**

A few yrs ago, woman came up to me after a service:

- She said, "I've been told that **THIS CHURCH is the CHURCH** God is going to use to bring REVIVAL to the SACRAMENTO AREA. **IS THAT TRUE?**"
- I said, "NO!"
- She said again, "Well I was told: *blah, blah, blah.*"
- I said, "NO!"
- You say, "How did you know God didn't send her?"
- "Because **I'VE BEEN SEDUCED BEFORE . . .**"
- . . . NO GOOD THING CAN COME FROM ENTERTAINING the QUESTION she was asking.
- THERE was **NOTHING HUMBLE ABOUT IT.**
- IT WAS a SEDUCTION.
- The **ROAD to HELL** is PAVED with **GOOD INTENTIONS**

SLIDE—Benjamin Franklin

"The Devil sweetens poison with honey."

SLIDE – Charles Spurgeon once told pastors,

"It is always best not to know, nor wish to know, what is being said about you, either by friends or foes. Those who praise us are probably as much mistaken as those who abuse us."

i.e. I MET a CHRISTIAN LEADER in L.A. when I was living there. ASKED HIM, "DIDN'T you USED TO BE..." (. . . Something that was VERY POSITIVE.)

- He responded, ". . . I USED TO BE A JERK!"
- We LAUGHED!
- It was REFRESHING!

If you want to KNOW what I BELIEVE is ahead of us:

- I'll **OFFER YOU A PROPHECY** about our CHURCH:
- **WE ARE CALLED:**
- **To be a SERVANT** to "OUR CITY & REGION..."
- **SALT & LIGHT** to "the CAPITAL of CALIFORNIA..."
- **To PRAY AGAINST ABOMINABLE LAWS** that WILL POLUTE OUR STATE & NAITON.
- **To PRAY FOR GODLY LEADERS** to be RAISED UP in POLITICS, MEDIA & EDUCATION.

- **To STEWARD** of a “24-HOUR HOUSE of PRAYER...
- **To RAISE UP** a GENERATION of CHILDREN who are going to FOLLOW JESUS **ALL OF THE DAYS** of their life...
- **To HOST** the NATIONS of the WORLD, who will SEND **HUNDREDS** of MISSIONARIES to us . . .
- We will **BEFRIEND** them . . . **CARE FOR** them . . .
- **INVITE THEM** into our HOMES
- . . . **WASH THEIR FEET**
- **FINANCIALLY SUPPORT** them . . .
- . . . & then **SEND** them to **NATIONS**, where SOME WILL GIVE THEIR LIVES as **MARTYRS** for JESUS
- . . . & WE WILL **MOURN** their **COURAGEOUS LIVES**
- ...& **WEEP** for a PLANET that **DIDN'T RECEIVE** them
- But we will also **REJOICE** in the **LIVES** they touched
- **MISSIONARIES** who BE **SENT FROM THIS HOUSE** as WELL, to reach out to the NATIONS.
- WE WILL ALSO SEND AROUND the WORLD, VIA the INTERNET, HUNDREDS of OUR “**TRANSPARENT, RAW, BROKEN, GENUINE**” **TESTIMONIES** of OUR **TRANSFORMED LIVES**.
- FOR these we will BE **PRAISED & PERSECUTED**.
- But, by the grace of God, WE will RAISE UP A NAMELESS, FACELESS GENERATION of DISCIPLES of the Lord JESUS CHRIST.
- IT will be **EXCITING . . . BUT NOT GLAMOUROUS!**

SLIDE - Interactive Question #3

Q. Would you like to be a part of young, adult, prayer movement that will receive and send missionaries and life-changing testimonies around the world?

- A. Yes
- B. No

- **CHECK** your **TICKET...ARE YOU ON** the **RIGHT PLANE?**
- **GOD NEEDS “MOMS & DADS for THIS”**
- **“SONS & DAUGHTERS”**
- **“KINGS & PRIESTS”**
- **“KINGDOM MARKETPLACE PEOPLE”**
- **ORDINARY CHRISTIANS** who are **FOLLOWING JESUS**

- Then the **Sadducees stepped forward**—a group of Jews who say there is **no resurrection after death**.
- They tried to **TRIP JESUS UP** with **ANOTHER TRICK QUESTION**.

- He **DIDN'T FALL FOR IT** either, but **instead EXPOSED THEIR IGNORANCE.**
- Jesus then **READS THEIR MAIL:**

SLIDE—Mark 12:24

Jesus replied, “*Your problem is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God.”*

- That **REALLY IS** the **GREATEST PROBLEM WE HAVE TODAY?**
- **WE DON'T REALLY KNOW the SCRIPTURES,**
- **& WE DON'T REALLY KNOW the POWER OF GOD**
- The **BIBLE** says, “The **PREACHING** of the **CROSS IS** the **POWER** of **GOD.**”

- In 1967 a man named Charles Murray was training for the summer **Olympics of 1968** as a **high diver.**
- A Christian friend had been **speaking to him for hours about Jesus**
- But **Charles wasn't ready to receive Jesus.**
- Charles then began to **avoid his Christian friend.**
- One day, Charles called his friend and wanted to know **where to look in the New Testament for some verses about salvation.**
- The Christian asked if he could meet with Charles, but **Charles declined.**
- . . . Because **he was training for the Olympic games . . .**
- Charles had **special privileges at the University pool facilities.**
- **Late that same night** Charles decided to go **practice a few dives.**
- It was a **clear night**, and the **moon was big and bright.**
- The **University pool had a ceiling of glass panes . . .**
- so the **moon shone in the pool area.**
- Charles **climbed** to the **highest platform** to take his 1st dive
- **At that moment, the Spirit of God began to convict him of his sin.**
- All the **scripture he had read** and heard began to flood his mind.
- He **stood on the platform backwards** to make his dive . . .
- And **spread his arms to gather his balance.**
- **Looking up at the wall**, Charles saw his own shadow caused by the light of the moon.
- It was the **shape of a cross.**
- He was **instantly overwhelmed by his sin.**
- His **heart broke** & he **sat down on the platform** and asked Jesus to forgive him and save him.
- **Suddenly, the lights in the pool area came on!**
- The attendant had come in to check the pool.
- **As Charles looked down from his platform . . .**

- he saw an empty pool, which had been drained for repairs.
- He had almost jumped to his death . . .
- but the Cross-had stopped him from disaster.

SLIDE—1Corinthians 1:18

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God."

(TENDERLY) - Most people won't understand the power of the cross until it's TOO LATE.

- JESUS, "***YOU NEED a COMEBACK.***"
- "***YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!***"

Let's Pray!