THE STORY CHAPTER 27

The Resurrection

April 14-16, 2017

Appearing on the Big Screen…

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

*Matthew 27:46*

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

*Matthew 27:46*

**How Deep the Father’s Love for Us**

How deep the Father's love for us,

How vast beyond all measure

That He should give His only Son

To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss,

The Father turns His face away

As wounds which mar the chosen One,

Bring many sons to glory.

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My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*Psalm 22:1*

Why are you so far from saving me,

so far from my cries of anguish?

2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,

by night, but I find no rest.

*Psalm 22:1-2*

***CG’s should build; quote from Psalm, then quote from New Testament***

PSALMIST: “All who see me mock me: they hurl insults, shaking their heads.”

*Psalm 22:7*

GOSPEL: “Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads.”

*Matthew 27:39*

PSALMIST: “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him.”

*Psalm 22:8*

GOSPEL: “He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now…”

*Matthew 27:43*

PSALMIST: “My mouth is dried up like a potsherd…”

*Psalm 22:15*

JESUS: “I am thirsty.”

*John 19:28*

PSALMIST: “…they pierce my hands and feet.”

*Psalm 22:16*

GOSPEL “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

*John 20:25*

PSALMIST: “They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.”

*Psalm 22:18*

GOSPEL: “And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.”

*Mark 15:24*

I will declare your name to my people;

in the assembly I will praise you.

23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!

Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or scorned

the suffering of the afflicted one;

he has not hidden his face from him

but has listened to his cry for help.

*Psalm 22:22-24*

“It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*John 19:30*

They will proclaim his righteousness,

declaring to a people yet unborn:

He has done it!

*Psalm 22:31*

THE STORY CHAPTER 27

The Resurrection

Randy Frazee

Oak Hills Church, San Antonio, TX

April 14-16, 2017

**To view The Story Chapter 27 sermon video,** [CLICK HERE](http://media.oakhillschurch.com/default.aspx?page=3679&item=580)**.**

**INTRODUCTION**

It is not an overstatement in the least to say that what happens over the three days we are looking at today in The Story are the most significant days in all of human history.

Football enthusiasts declared February 5 as Super Bowl Sunday this year. But followers of Jesus Christ say, No, THIS is Super Bowl Sunday.

Last weekend golf enthusiasts declared the weekend the Masters Weekend. No. Believers in Jesus Christ declare, THIS is The Master’s weekend.

And I will tell you why. The only chance we have to come back to God, the only chance we have of living life forever without sin, the only chance we have of living now with unprecedented hope relies completely on Jesus’ victory over Satan, death and the grave.

The victor at the Super Bowl holds high the Vince Lombardi trophy. The victor at the Master’s weekend is robed with the green jacket. When Jesus defeated death, sin and the grave on this Sunday morning, he lifted up his arms and held you, and said, “I have no interest in trophies. I have no interest in being robed like royalty. I did all of this for you.”

You know the story, but someone always whispers, “Yeah, but we’re paying you to tell it.” So here you go.

**The Easter Story**

Friday morning, 9:00 a.m., they nailed the hands and feet of Jesus to the cross. Three hours later at noon, darkness came over all the land – how appropriate. Then three hours later, at 3 p.m., Jesus has been hanging on the cross for a total of 6 gruesome hours. Jesus, out of nowhere, shouts out this most unusual question –

*“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”*

*Matthew 27:46*

Translated from the Hebrew and Aramaic here is the question he asked:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

*Matthew 27:46*

I was taught, and I believed up until just a couple of weeks ago, that this is the moment in human history where God the Father could not look at his son, because Jesus had taken all our sin upon himself and God could not look sin in the face. So at this dark hour in the life of Jesus, I was taught he turned his back on his son. Or, as the old hymn declares, he turned his face from him:

*Sing a cappella with congregation:*

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
  
How great the pain of searing loss,  
**The Father turns His face away**  
As wounds which mar the chosen One,  
Bring many sons to glory

*How Deep the Father’s Love for Us, by Stuart Townend*

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Now, after all these years, I have become convinced that this is not what happened in that moment. Let me tell you why.

***REMEZ***

A little while ago, I met with a neighbor of mine who is Jewish. She told me about a Jewish educational technique the rabbis used to help people in their memorization of Scripture. Jewish people, particularly in the Old Testament, would memorize volumes of the Scriptures, because there were no written copies of the Bible like we have today. So, the rabbi would give them hints to help them recite a passage using a tradition called *remez,* where he would start off the text with a phrase, and the students would finish it. Let me do a little *remez* with you, where I’ll start out with something you have likely memorized, and you finish it:

Randy: “Mary had a little lamb”

Audience: “His fleece was as white as snow”

Randy: “Everywhere that Mary went”

Audience: “The lamb was sure to go.”

Very nice. That’s called *remez.* Scholars believe that what Jesus is actually doing on the cross at this moment is *remezing*; he is giving the people the first line to a song they had memorized, and they would be encouraged to complete it. Where is the song found? It’s actually a song written by King David and sung a thousand years before the cross. Psalm chapter 22.

As you might suspect, the very first line of this Psalm reads (say it with me):

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*Psalm 22:1*

The people would have responded with the second line of this psalm, which goes like this:

Why are you so far from saving me,  
    so far from my cries of anguish?  
**2**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,  
    by night, but I find no rest.

*Psalm 22:1-2*

This would have caused the Jewish people, who memorized this psalm as a child, to go deeper into the Psalmist’s lament, and they would find themselves in the petitions David made to God. The first petition they would run into is found in verse 7, where David sang:

PSALMIST: “All who see me mock me: they hurl insults, shaking their heads.”

*Psalm 22:7*

At this the people in the crowd should be saying, “Wait a minute! Didn’t we just do this to Jesus?”

In fact, the gospel says,

GOSPEL: “Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads.”

*Matthew 27:39*

They would then come to the next petition of David in Psalm 22, where David sings,

PSALMIST: “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him.”

*Psalm 22:8*

“Wait a minute,” the people would say, “didn’t the thief on the cross just say that very thing to Jesus a few hours ago?” Why yes, he did:

GOSPEL: “He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now…”

*Matthew 27:43*

It would lead them to the next petition of David, that they memorized, in Psalm 22:15:

PSALMIST: “My mouth is dried up like a potsherd…”

*Psalm 22:15*

“Wait a minute, didn’t Jesus just shout out this very idea?” In John we see:

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said,

JESUS: “I am thirsty.”

*John 19:28*

It should be dawning on them what is happening here. And then the next petition would come, where David sings,

PSALMIST: “…they pierce my hands and feet.”

*Psalm 22:16*

Sound familiar? Actually, we have no record that David’s hands and feet were ever pierced. Could it be that none of this actually happened to King David? This is all a prophecy of what was yet to come. Sure enough, listen to Thomas’s words in John 20:

GOSPEL “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

*John 20:25*

They come to the final petition we’re going to talk about today, where David sings:

PSALMIST: “They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.”

*Psalm 22:18*

They would say, “Wait a minute! Didn’t the Roman soldiers do this to Jesus as they nailed him to the cross?” Absolutely.

GOSPEL: “And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.”

*Mark 15:24*

“Wait a minute,” they should have said. “Jesus, the rabbi, is *remezing* with us. By starting off with ‘My God my God why have you forsaken me,’ he is leading us to the fuller story of what is happening to him on the cross. He is pointing us to the psalm that was written over a thousand years ago which describes everything that has just happened to him.”

In the Lower Story it would appears that the Jews and Romans have come together to kill Jesus. But in reality, in the Upper Story, this was God’s plan all along. He is the Messiah, the Suffering Servant. He is fulfilling prophecy. His shout was not a cry of despair, but the cry of the fulfillment of prophecy. But the Psalm doesn’t end here…and they knew it. Every lament in the book of Psalms makes a turn, and this one is no exception. It starts with the lament, and the petitions, and then it makes a shift to a declaration of praise for deliverance.

I will declare your name to my people;  
    in the assembly I will praise you.  
**23**You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
    All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!  
    Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!  
**24**For he has not despised or scorned  
    the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
    but has listened to his cry for help.

*Psalm 22:22-24*

Jesus is saying, “I was not at any time forsaken by my father. The Father has not at any time turned his face from me. I will be delivered from this death in just a few moments.”

Good, good fathers don’t turn their backs on their children. God held his hand and his heart through this horrific experience, for your sake.

He is speaking of the resurrection, of his deliverance. He is saying, by referring to Psalm 22, “In three days you will see me again; I will rise from the dead. I will be delivered.” But before the people could do anything about it, Jesus declared with one more with one more thrust of air through his worn and beaten frame,

“It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*John 19:30*

“It is finished” does not mean “He is finished” but the work he has come to do is complete. The single Greek word he spoke was *tetelestai*. In Jesus’ day papyri receipts for taxes have been recovered with the word *tetelestai* written across them, meaning, “paid in full.”

But there is more. The Jewish audience knew how Psalm 22 ended.

They will proclaim his righteousness,  
    declaring to a people yet unborn:  
    He has done it!

*Psalm 22:31*

Who are the “people yet unborn?” That’s you! David is saying that there will be a day like today where people who were not yet born will be born, and someone like me will stand up and declare his righteousness and victory. But there’s more. The entire psalm finishes with the phrase, “He has done it!” Does that sound familiar? In Hebrew it’s just one word, *hasah* and it means to complete, or “it is finished.”

Jesus, hanging on the cross, in severe pain, is ever teaching the people what is really going on. He *remezes* with them by starting the psalm out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And then he wraps it up at the end, “It is finished.” Jesus, like David, may have felt he was forsaken, but in the end, there was a difference in feeling forsaken and actually being forsaken. God the Father did not turn his face from his son. Fathers don’t do that.

**Now here is the good news…**

The same God who did not forsake his Son, will not forsake you. Why? Because the Bible says, all who believe with their heart that Jesus is the Messiah, and confess with their mouth that God raised him from the dead on the third day, and believe it, for the forgiveness of their sins, John 1:12 says of those people, you have the right to be called children of God. And because you are a child of God, he says, “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

There may be a cloud in your life right now, and you may think God has turned his face from you, but he has not, if you know him. Receive it into your soul.

Now, the neighbor who taught me about this principle of *remez* is with us today, and I’d like you to meet her. Please welcome Bernie Tozdavan.

*Bernie Tozdavan gives her testimony of seeking a relationship with God, and discovering the Messiah in Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22. God used several influences, including Jews for Jesus, Holocaust survivors who converted to Christianity, and a Messianic seder in her journey to becoming a Jewish believer in Jesus. Bernie then sings a psalm in Hebrew, which translates:*

*Our Father our King*

*Be gracious to us and answer us*

*Our Father our King*

*Be gracious to us and answer us*

*For we have no worthy deeds*

*Deal with us in righteousness and steadfast love*

*Deal with us in righteousness and steadfast love*

*And save us.*