Its Friday…..But Sunday’s Coming!

Message 4 of 5: The Road to Calvary Sermon Series
I Corinthians 15:12-22

Read Scripture Text

P R A Y E R

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Introduction

There has been many DARK DAYS in history.

……It was a DARK DAY when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden and introduced sin into this world.

……It was a DARK DAY when God closed the door on THE ARK sealing the doom of every unrepentant man and woman on earth to die in a “watery grave.”

……It was a DARK DAY when the wicked Roman Emperor Nero ordered the merciless slaughter of thousands upon thousands of innocent Christians, whom he blamed for setting ROME on fire.

……It was a DARK DAY when Adolph Hitler ordered the extermination of over 6 million Jews in his attempt to create a superior race.
The day President Lincoln and President Kennedy were assassinated.

The day the TITANIC sank in the icy waters of the Atlantic.

The day PRAYER was removed from our public schools.

The day ROE VS. WADE cleared the way for the slaughter of millions and millions of unborn babies.

The day the SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER exploded.

That day in September of 2001 when the TERRORIST attacked AMERICA.

These were all very DARK DAYS in history!

But without a doubt, the darkest day in all of history was the FRIDAY we executed the innocent, sinless Son of the Almighty God.

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(Don’t read this…..)

(Acknowledgements: This portion of the message is NOT original with me. I gratefully acknowledge the late black preacher, S.M. Lockeridge who preached this brief, but powerful sermon at a Good Friday service back in the 1980’s. This message was widely proclaimed by Dr. Tony Campolo. To God be all the glory, honor and praise for these inspirational words!)
ITS FRIDAY!!!

ITS FRIDAY. Jesus is arrested in the garden where He was praying. BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. The disciples are hiding and Peter’s denying he even knows the Lord. BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. Jesus is standing before the High Priest silent as a lamb before the slaughter. BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. Jesus is beaten, mocked and spit upon. BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. The Roman soldiers are flogging our Lord with a leather whip, ripping and tearing away His flesh. BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. The Son of Man stands firm as they press the crown of thorns down into His brow. BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. See our Lord walking to Calvary……the blood dripping from His body……see the cross crashing down on His back as He stumbles beneath the load. ITS FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. See those ROMAN SOLDIERS driving the nails into the feet and hands of my Lord! Hear my JESUS cry, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!”

ITS FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!
ITS FRIDAY. Jesus is hanging on the cross, bloody and dying. Hear the crowd laughing and mocking my Lord!

ITS FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. The sky grows dark........the earth begins to tremble, and He who knew NO SIN became sin for us.

For six straight hours, our Lord endured all the wrath of God that we would have had to endure for all eternity.

THAT WAS FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY WAS COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. And at the very moment of Jesus’ death, the veil of the Temple that separates sinful man from Holy God was torn in two from TOP to BOTTOM........the EARTH QUAKED......THE GRAVES OPENED......and the DEAD CAME FORTH OUT OF THEIR GRAVES........Because SUNDAY WAS COMING!

ITS FRIDAY. All of HELL is celebrating. SATAN and HIS DEMONS are a victory dance.

That’s because IT WAS FRIDAY and they didn’t know yet that SUNDAY WAS A COMIN!
BUT NOW ITS SUNDAY!!!

BUT NOW ITS SUNDAY. And just about dawn on that first day of the week, there was a great earthquake.

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD is coming down out of heaven and rolling the stone away from the door of the tomb.

YES ITS SUNDAY and the angel of the Lord is sitting on top of that stone……..and the guards posted at the tomb to keep the body from disappearing were “shaking in their boots” because ITS SUNDAY and the LAMB THAT WAS SILENT BEFORE THE SLAUGHTER……..is now the RESURRECTED LION FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH.

YES ITS SUNDAY! And the crucified and resurrected CHRIST……..

Has defeated DEATH.

ITS SUNDAY and He has defeated HELL.

ITS SUNDAY and He has defeated SIN.

ITS SUNDAY and He has defeated THE GRAVE.

ITS SUNDAY AND EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED! OUR PAST……..OUR PRESENT……..AND OUR FUTURE……..IT HAS ALL CHANGED!

It is the dawn of God’s age of grace, the grace God freely pours out upon all who will bring their sins under the precious, cleansing blood of the Lamb of God.
What Does All This Mean To You and Me?

Because of what JESUS did on that SUNDAY after His crucifixion, everything Paul spoke of in I CORINTHIANS 15 is validated:

*OUR PREACHING IS NOT USELESS.*

*OUR FAITH IS NOT IN VAIN.*

*AND OUR HOPE IN OUR OWN RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD IS MADE CERTAIN!*

Because of what happened that SUNDAY, Christ has turned ..........

*OUR HOPELESSNESS* into HOPE

*OUR MOURNING* into CELEBRATION

*OUR SORROW* into JOY

*OUR DEFEAT* into VICTORY

*AND OUR DEATH* into LIFE
Yes, while we are here on this earth, we will all have to go through many **DARK FRIDAYS**, but because of Jesus Christ **SUNDAY IS NEVER TOO FAR AWAY!**

* You may have said **GOODBYE** to the most precious and dear one on earth to you.......**but remember SUNDAY’S COMING!**

* You may be battling a **SICKNESS or DISEASE** that may eventually take your life.....**but remember SUNDAY’S COMING!**

* Your marriage may lie in the **RUINS OF DIVORCE** but **just remember SUNDAY’S COMING!**

* You may have just **LOST YOUR JOB** or you are facing the very real prospect of ** LOSING YOUR JOB** sometime in the near future.......**but remember SUNDAY’S COMING!**

There are many things that “knock” us down in this life, but **BECAUSE HE LIVES NOTHING CAN KEEP US DOWN!**  *For we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus!*
INVITATION

As we close this morning, I want to talk just a moment to those of you who don’t know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Right now eternity may be the farthest thing from your mind.

Right now raising your family might seem like the most important thing in the world. OK, one day your family will be raised, then what are you going to do?

“Well I’ll work until I retire.” OK, THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

“Well then I’ll enjoy my retirement, I’ll take it easy, and maybe do some traveling, and enjoy my grandkids and great grandkids. OK, THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

“Well then I guess I’ll grow old and one day I will die.” OK, THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? (REPEAT)................(long pause).........
My friend, your eternity is much closer than you think:

Do you realize right at this very moment you are just one heart beat......one breath ......one heart attack......one stroke......one accident.....one blink of an eye away from your eternity!

The question is: Are you ready? Are you ready to meet your Maker should you leave this world today?

HEBREWS 9:27    It is appointed unto man once to die and then to face the judgment.

There is only ONE who can save your soul. There is only ONE who can turn your hopelessness into hope......there is only ONE who can turn your DEFEAT into VICTORY....there is only ONE who can turn your ETERNAL DEATH into ETERNAL LIFE......and that is Jesus Christ, the one who loved you so much He was willing to die for you before you were ever born.

This same JESUS invites you today to come to Him by FAITH......BELIEVING He alone can save your soul......REPENTING of your sinful ways.....CONFESSING HIM as your Lord and Savior........AND TO BE BAPTIZED in the waters of Christian baptism.
My friend, it may be FRIDAY in your soul today, BUT SUNDAY’S COMING!

Won’t you come to JESUS TODAY?

Won’t you come and give your ALL to the ONE who gave HIS ALL for you on the OLD RUGGED CROSS!

Won’t you come as we stand and sing our Hymn of Decision?

Invitation