

Introduction:

- Part 2 of Journey to the Resurrection: It was a journey that Jesus was on and it is a journey all are on who believe in Christ Jesus.
 - The Scriptures prophesied the coming of the Messiah in two remarkably different scenes. One prophecy has him entering the city of Jerusalem on a donkey, while the other describes him arriving on a great war stallion.
 - *"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey"* (Zechariah 9:9).
 - *"Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. ... He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords"* (Revelations 19:11-16, NLT).
- APPLICATION:** In both scenarios Jesus presents himself as one who comes to confront the sins of the world. The humble Christ confronts our sins by taking them upon Himself. The triumphant Christ confronts our sins by vanquishing and banishing the unrepentant sinner. The message is simple. Christ comes to every sinner in one of these two ways. He either comes to you on a donkey or on a war stallion. You choose!
- *"Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end."* (John 13:1-11, NLT) The expanse of love/the expanse of pain/the expanse of promise.

I. The Expanse of Love

- A. The expanse of love is eternal. Jesus knew where he had come from and where he was going. 13:3
 1. Jesus had come from love...God! 1 Jn 4:8 *God is love*. He had come from the Eternal One and was returning to the Eternal One. He had come from the realm of love and was returning to the realm of love. That is an incredible expanse of love...to have left heaven to purchase our redemption by His own blood. And then to return to heaven.
- B. The expanse of love was reaching out to all of humanity.
 1. He love his disciples to the very end.
 2. Telos-to carry out, to complete, to reach the goal.
 3. He demonstrated that love by washing their feet.
 - a) None of them would do it.
 - b) The washing of their feet "foreshadows the cross itself: the voluntary humility of the Lord cleanses his loved ones and gives them an example of selfless service which they must follow." p612 NICONT John Morris.
 - c) Peter is reluctant to let Jesus do what He wants. He is still trying to dictated the terms. He doesn't understand it is not the skin that is washed but the acceptance of Jesus' lowly service.
 - d) Judas got his feet washed as well. Some ask if Jesus washed Judas' feet. Yes:
 - (1) Jesus assumed the lowest place in the room by become a servant.
 - (2) Jesus washing of Judas feet was symbolic of Jesus doing to the least deserving.

- C. The expanse of love was reaching out to the Father.
1. The Father was there when Jesus was baptized. And He confirmed to His Son who He was. "This is my son in whom I am well pleased!" Those are powerful words for any son to hear...even the son of God. Especially when the Son was about to be tested in the wilderness. Sonship give us strength and identity.
 2. The Father was there at the transfiguration. He encourages the others: This is my Son listen to Him. He is moving towards the cross in Jerusalem.
 3. The Father gave Jesus:
 - a) The Spirit Jn 3:34 with out measure.
 - b) The work Jn 17:4
 - c) The works Jn 5:36; 14:1
 - d) The message Jn 12:49; 17:4
 - e) His authority Jn 17:2
 - f) His name Jn 17:11
 - g) His glory Jn 17:22-24
 - h) His disciples Jn 6:37-39; 10:29; 17:6,9,12,24; 18:9
 - i) The cup He must drink 18:11
 - j) Power over all flesh 18:2
 - k) Life Jn 5:26
 4. Can you see why Jesus was excited to return to the Father? He was very grateful! Father was a good Father! Like Jesus our journey to the resurrection is empowered by the Father's love. It expands all eternity. Do not lose hope!

II. **The Expanse of Pain** Jesus knew the pain that was ahead. 13:11

- A. His hour had come to leave this world.
1. Folks, up to this point, there is only one way to leave this world. You die! *It is appointed to man, once to die and then the judgement.* Heb 9:27
- B. Jesus not only had a date with death. He had a date with suffering.
1. Jesus was going to be punished for our sin. Punishment has to do with pain. Is 53:3 says that he was *despised, rejected and acquainted with the deepest of grief.*
 2. Pain is both internal and external. There is the pain in the heart and mind. And pain in the body.
 - a) Internal - when I think of the internal pain of Jesus, here is what I am reminded of:
 - (1) A kiss - an act of betrayal. The kiss was from Judas. "*But Jesus said, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"*" (Luke 22:48, NLT) To betray was to give over to an enemy. Judas was betraying Jesus with a kiss. What an act of hypocrisy! That an act of loving was really an act of delivering to an enemy. All the while knowing that Jesus had loved you all along that he had just washed your feet in demonstration of his love. Crushing to Jesus in light of His love. It is what the backslidden do to Jesus.
 - (2) A slap - an act of abuse done in ignorance. "*Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. "Is that the way to answer the high priest?"*" he demanded." (John 18:22, NLT). This temple guard did not necessarily know what he was doing, or who it was he was actually slapping. It is what most of the world does in response to Jesus love.

- (3) A crow - the sound of that rooster announced to both Jesus and Peter that he had been caught 'red handed' in denying Jesus. *"And immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: 'Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.' And he broke down and wept."* (Mark 14:72, NLT) Peter had just rejected Jesus three times. It is what we do when we do not want to be associated with Jesus.
- b) Pain is external. When I think of the external pain Jesus endured I am reminded of:
- (1) The Crown - the Roman soldiers placed a crown of thorns upon his head. The thorns were a result of the sin committed in garden of Eden. Jesus was taking upon His head the crown of our curse.
 - (2) The Whip - When I think of Jesus taking the lashes upon His back I am reminded of the punishment. Again, Is 53. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him. He was punished for our sin.
 - (3) The Cross - every nail driven into His flesh was our sin being nailed to His body. Three nails. I think of it as my sin...spirit, soul, and body. What separates me from the Father was being nailed to the Son of God! He took it all! Spirit, soul, and body. My redemption is complete...spirit, soul and body.
- C. The expanse of pain was incredible. When you know you are innocent, and being unjustly punished there is both and internal and external pain. Yet Jesus was able to say in the midst of the pain, "Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing. *"What we do see is Jesus, who was given a position "a little lower than the angels"; and because he suffered death for us, he is now "crowned with glory and honor." Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone.*" (Hebrews 2:9, NLT)

III. The Expanse of Promise

- A. The hour had come to return to the Father.
 1. Jesus came from eternal life and now prepares to return to eternal life.
 2. He was returning to glory.
- B. The hour had come to return to God.
 1. Jesus rested in the promise that death would not keep him down. He knew the power of death was broke in Him
- C. The hour had come for Him to receive all authority.
 1. Father to the Son, I will give you back everything and more besides...A Bride, the church!
 2. *"Jesus replied, 'Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory.'*" (John 12:23, NLT)
 3. Heb 2:9 *He suffered death for us, he is now crowned with glory and honor.* He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Conclusion:

- As we prepare for this passion week I want you to remember
- The expanse of His love. He came to save us from our sin.
- The expanse of His pain. He suffered as He took our punishment.
- The expanse of His Promise. Who so ever shall believe shall have eternal life.

- The message is simple. Christ comes to every sinner in one of these two ways. He either comes to you on a donkey or on a war stallion. You choose! The expanse is unfathomable!