



DAY 1

JOHN 14:19-20

2,000 years ago, Jesus' closest followers were confused by the cross. How could this Messiah, the man they spent every day with for three years be dead? They gave up their professions and their family ties to follow this guy and for what? Jesus knew they would feel the sting of disappointment. That's why before He gave His life on the cross, He gave a preview of what was next. Essentially, He tells His crew that "I am going to die, but I'll come back. When I do, you'll know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I am who I said I am." Then Jesus drops this amazing promise. Because I live, you can be confident that you won't face death, at least not permanently. If you follow Jesus, your death has been arrested. Jesus always keeps His promises; the cross is proof.

DAY 2

HEBREWS 12:1-2

What do you want most? Is it a bigger house or a promotion? Perhaps it's that guy finally asking you on a date! In today's passage, we get some insight into what Jesus wanted most. The writer tells us that Jesus endured the cross and considered its shame worth nothing because He had a goal. He kept His eyes on the prize and turned a symbol of fear and power into the most common piece of jewelry the world would ever know. So, what was this joy? It was you and it was me. Jesus' very purpose for becoming a person was to live a perfect life, die in sacrificial death in our place, and in so doing, secure our relationship with God. The enemy intended the cross to shame God's son, yet God turned that shame into salvation for everyone who believes. Now that's a comeback story.

DAY 3

1 PETER 2:24-25

Jesus' crucifixion wasn't merely an execution. It was heaven's cosmic comeback. When the very first humans sinned, they were cut off from a relationship with God and us along with them. While the story could have ended there, God promised that one day He would make it right. Good Friday was that day. When Jesus gave His life on the cross He wasn't paying for anything He had done, but rather for what we had done. He literally bore the weight of the punishment for every human being who ever lived: past, present and future. When we trust in His sacrifice to make us right with God, we are forgiven and our slate is forever wiped clean. The cross was God's ultimate statement of love for a lost world. Jesus died and rose again so that you can have a comeback. Will you follow Him?

DAY GALATIANS 6:14

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The Romans are responsible for crucifixion - one of the most gruesome forms of capital punishment ever invented. Rome used this form of torture to show off their power. It was a very public process meant to spread the message: don't mess with us. What's so ironic is that Jesus took this symbol of fear and intimidation and transformed it into a beacon of hope. Paul goes as far to say that He boasts in the cross! The audience reading these words would have been shocked! Paul wants the world to know His ultimate value and identity comes from what Jesus accomplished through the cross. He can never be good enough but Jesus gave us His good enough by exchanging our mess with His perfection. Because of this reality, we are to no longer live for ourselves but for the One who rescued us.

DAY ACTS 5:27-31

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When Jesus was being tried as a criminal Peter tucked tail and ran. He denied even knowing Jesus to a little girl because He was so scared of what might happen to him. So, what prompted this dramatic change that we witness as Peter comes face to face with the religious authorities of his day, perhaps just months later? The resurrection. Jesus' comeback paved the way for Peter's own comeback story. When Peter witnessed with His own eyes that Jesus had defeated death he was forever changed. Gone were the days of being a frightened fisherman. Instead, he lived up to the nickname Jesus gave to him years before, rock. Peter went on to be a key leader in the early church because He knew that Jesus' movement was literally unstoppable. Peter listened to God and did what He said because the resurrection changes everything.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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