

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Today we begin our 4-week series highlighting events surrounding the passion of Jesus... from His triumphal entry where we celebrate Palm Sunday through His resurrection and His ascension.

**2 Corinthians 4:18...** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (NIV)

- (MSG) – There's far more here than meets the eye.

The greatest power of the cross happened behind the scenes. This morning, we are going to look at the unseen events of the cross, His burial and resurrection.

- **Ephesians 4:8** – Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive... (NKJV)
- **Ephesians 4:9** – Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the inner parts of the earth? (LAT)
- **Colossians 2:15** – And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (NIV)
- **1 Peter 3:19** – By whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison... (NKJV)
- **Acts 2:27** – Because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. (NIV)

*Jesus descended into hell to...*

### DECLARE VICTORY OVER DEATH

- **1 Peter 2:24** – **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree**, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.... (NIV)
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him **become sin for us**. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us. (NIV)
- **Acts 2:31-32** ...His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. <sup>32</sup>This Jesus God has raised up... (NKJV)

#### ***This seals His Victory Over Death***

*Through His descent into Hades, Jesus not only faced death but conquered it completely. Instead of a place of defeat... Hell was transformed into a place where victory was declared. For us today, this signifies that death no longer holds power over we who believe in Him.*

**1 Corinthians 15:55-57** – "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? "...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

*Jesus descended into hell to...*

## **DECLARE VICTORY OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY**

**Colossians 2:15...** disarmed the powers and authorities; he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. (NIV)

- **MSG** – He stripped the rulers and authorities of their power and made a public spectacle of them as he celebrated His victory.

**Revelation 1:18** – I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. (NKJV)

**Matthew 16:18-19**...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates (*the authority*) of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> **I will give you the keys of the kingdom** of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (NIV)

*Jesus descended into hell to...*

## **PREACH THE GOSPEL**

**1 Peter 3:19** – He went and preached to the spirits in prison... (NKJV)

Because He did this in the unseen realm...we now have open access to the father when we die... **we will be immediately present with the Lord.** (2 Corinthians 5:8)

### **Because he did these things:**

- We now bind and loose... We now spread His message
- We now walk in love, live by faith, confess His word
- We now operate in spiritual gifts, laying hands on the sick and seeing them recover.