

On Thursday we looked at the story of Jesus being on the Mount of Olives at a place called GETHSEMANE.

THE MASTER AMONG THE TREES

Mark 14:32-47 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

I. IT WAS THE MASTERS PLACE OF PRAYER v. 35-36

- i. JESUS GOES TO MEET THE FATHER –
- ii. JESUS SEEKS TO KNOW THE WILL OF THE FATHER –
- iii. JESUS REPEATLY TURNS TO THE FATHER –

II. IT WAS A PLACE OF INTENSE PRESSURE v 32-34

The name *Gethsemane* is Aramaic in origin. The word means "Olive Press".

- i. JESUS FACED PRESSURE FROM WITHIN –
- ii. JESUS FACED PRESSURE FROM WITHOUT –
- iii. JESUS FACED PRESSURE FROM OTHERS –

III. IT WAS A PLACE TO DISCOVER PRIORITIES

- i. JESUS KNEW HIS PRIORITIES FROM THE BEGINNING –
- ii. THE DISCIPLES FAILED IN THEIR PRIORITIES –
- iii. THE DISCIPLES CONFUSED THEIR PRIORITIES –

On Friday we looked at the story of the Death of Jesus at CALVARY.

THE MASTER ON A TREE

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; by his wounds you have been healed.

I. THE MASTER ON A TREE UNDERSTOOD THE EFFECT OF THE FALL

- iv. EATING FROM THE TREE WAS A CHALLENGE TO GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY –
- v. EATING FROM THE TREE CAUSED CONDEMNATION FROM GOD –
- vi. EATING FROM THE TREE CAUSED ETERNAL SEPERATION FROM GOD –

II. THE MASTER ON A TREE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED TO REVERSE THE SYMBOL OF THE FALL

- iv. JESUS OBEYED THE WILL OF GOD –
- v. JESUS WILLINGLY TOOK THE BLAME FOR OUR SIN –
- vi. JESUS RECEIVED OUR PUNISHMENT IN HIS BODY –

III. THE MASTER ON A TREE SET US FREE FROM THE EFFECT OF THE FALL

- iv. JESUS IMPUTED HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS INTO US –
- v. JESUS HEALS US COMPLETELY –
- vi. JESUS PROMISES ETERNAL SECURITY –

Today, as we contemplate the RESSURECTION of Jesus, we do so from the perspective of HEAVEN.

THE MASTER IS THE TREE

I. THE TREE IN THE GARDEN WAS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF CREATION

Genesis 2:8-9 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. v9 And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15-17 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. v16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; v17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

i. THE TREE WAS AT THE CENTER OF THE GARDEN –

*Genesis 2:v9 And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. **In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.***

ii. THE TREE WAS THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE –

*Genesis 3:22-24 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. **He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.**"*

iii. THE TREE WAS GUARDED –

v23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. v24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Humanity was prevented from having selfish access to the tree of life, but they were not banished from the presence of God totally, like Satan who was cast out of heaven.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

II. THE TREE OF LIFE ON EARTH SHOULD BE THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF ALL

i. THE WISEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED TOLD US TO SEEK THE TREE OF LIFE –

*Proverbs 3:1-6 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, v2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. v3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. v4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. **v5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; v6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.***

*Proverbs 3:13-18 **Blessed is the man who finds wisdom**, the man who gains understanding, v14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. v15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. v16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. v17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. **v18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her**; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.*

ii. **THE TREE OF LIFE IS THE SYMBOL OF A RIGHTOUS LIFE –**

Proverbs 11:5-31

v5 The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them,

v6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them,

v8 The righteous man is rescued from trouble,

v9 through knowledge the righteous escape.

v10 When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices;

v18 he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

v19 The truly righteous man attains life,

v20 The LORD detests men of perverse heart but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

v21 Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free.

v23 The desire of the righteous ends only in good,

v28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

v30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

v31 If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!"

III. **THE TREE OF LIFE IN HEAVEN IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF ALL BELIEVERS**

i. **THE TREE OF LIFE IS THE GIFT GIVEN TO THOSE HAVE REPENTED OF THEIR SIN –**

*Revelation 22:14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that **they may have the right to the tree of life** and may go through the gates into the city. v15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.*

ii. **THE TREE OF LIFE IS BEING IN THE ETERNAL PRESENCE OF AN ETERNAL GOD –**

*Revelation 22:14 "**Blessed are those who wash their robes**, that they may have the right to the tree of life and **may go through the gates into the city**. v15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.*

THE MASTER IS THE TREE

*Revelation 22:1-21 v1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, **flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb** v2 down the middle of the great street of the city. **On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.** v3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. v4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. v5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. ... v16 "I, **Jesus**, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. **I am the Root** and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." v17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. ... v20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. v21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.*

Mark 12:18-25 Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. v19 "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and have children for his brother. v20 Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children. v21 The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third. v22 In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too. v23 At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?" v24 Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? v25 When the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.

Matthew 27:52-53 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. v53 They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

John 11:23-27 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." v24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." v25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; v26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" v27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

1 Corinthians 15:42-45 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; v43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; v44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. v45 **So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.**