

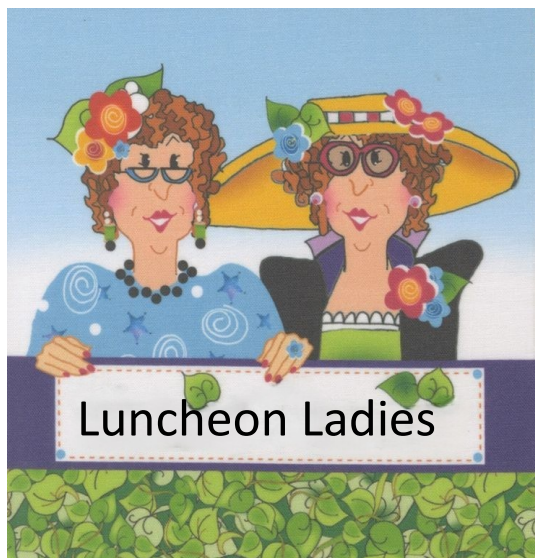
The Lord's Lantern

A Publication of Fellowship Bible Church



His scars are a sign of His strength, that
He defeated the powers separating our
souls from His love.

From His Face Like Mine
by Russell Joyce



Tuesday, April 1st at noon

At the Church

Jackie, Kathy and Kathy will be
hosting



Pastor Bruce's Musings

April is finally here! It begins with the traditional "April Fool's Day," contains many family birthdays, and is known for its high volume of precipitation in our rain gauges, coupled with the promise of a beautiful array of May foliage to come. But there are three special days that should call us back to true spiritual reality: Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter. The first one, known as **Palm Sunday**, recorded in Luke 21:1-9, reminds us of the Lord Jesus being honored by His Hebrew followers as He rode into Jerusalem. But He was not in a regal carriage or horse-drawn chariot like the Roman dignitaries would use, but on the back of a lowly work animal, a donkey. This was not a celebratory entrance into the City of God for a king, but more adaptable to that of a slave, a



Pastor Bruce's Musings	1
The Plot to Kill Jesus	3
Puzzle Page	5
Birthdays	6



common person in life. No doubt the procession seemed out of place when compared to the regality of the Roman dignitaries of the day. The only fanfare shown was the palms from nearby trees, as well as the peoples' own clothing placed in the pathway of the donkey and its colt.

The disciples who were sent to retrieve this animal did not obtain a saddle on which the Lord Jesus could sit; they used their own outer garments as a buffer between rider and beast. No limousine moving slowly through the throng as they were awaiting the Lord's arrival. The scene almost mocked the typical procession into a city in the Roman Empire.

This week would be the last week in the life of Jesus. Everything would culminate, intensify, and lead to His arrest, trial, and conviction on the charge of blasphemy; but He **was** Who He said he was - even Pilate had to admit the he could find not one shred of evidence against this Man. The ruler literally "washed his hands" of this trial and its verdict. Jesus was sent to the local jail until the time of His punishment had come. This day has come to be known as **"Good Friday,"** a puzzling name, considering the outcome of the verdict in Pilate's courtroom: guilty of blasphemy and sentenced to crucifixion. But for the followers of the man named Jesus, the final sacrifice for man's sins was about to become reality.

All the disciples forsook their leader, Master, and Rabbi. He was totally alone; only Peter followed, but from a "safe" distance. But even this man's true identity was uncovered by a lowly servant girl. Peter shed tears of shame and regret, as he had let down the Messiah whose Father had even revealed to the disciple the Lord's true nature as the very Son

of God! This great moment is recorded in Matthew 16:15-17.

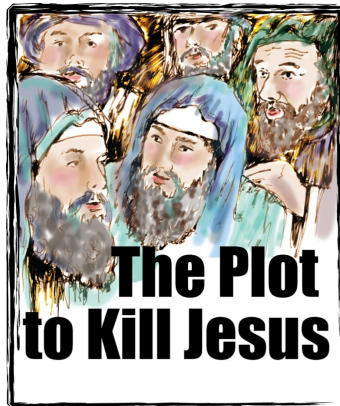
That Sabbath was unusually quiet. Jesus had died; His body had been taken down from the cross before Sabbath began and placed in a borrowed tomb. He was gone from their presence. What would they do without Him? Many questions flashed through their minds; unspoken "if-onlys" haunted them, and regrets were myriad. They struggled to make sense of what He had said before this event. It was a time of loss, grief, and questions. But then, what has today come to be known as Sunday dawned upon them, unlike any normal "first day of the week" had even been. Something stirred among them. People were whispering strange things; the ladies had gone to the tomb to finish their task of preparing His body for final interment. He was gone! More questions came to their minds. "What was it He said about 'after He came back'...back from where?" But then the resurrected Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, who, with the other Mary, had gone early to the tomb. Soon all the disciples met Jesus in Galilee where they rejoiced, worshipping the living Lord of Glory!

Each of these early disciples was like many people are today: too busy, filled with fear and not faith, and walking through this with spiritual blinders on. It's time to discard the philosophies of the world and cling to the Savior of the world, much as Mary Magdalene did when she met Him for the first time after His resurrection.

Remember: it's not the amount of faith we may possess, it's in whom we place that faith. To the unbeliever, I urge you to trust Him as your Savior today. To the believer, continue to trust

Him fully and always. He alone has the words of eternal life: this is God's reality! Have a great Easter!

Pastor Bruce



One of my devotions quoted an old writer who said, "Lord, what could you have found on earth that is more nasty and repulsive than having people spit on you? They abused you and insulted you as though you were the pest of mankind, a blasphemer and an outcast who was not worthy of even common human respect. Lord, what was there in you to be hated? Why do they have such contempt for you and spit on you? Oh my God, it is what I deserve, not You! Truly I do, Lord, deserve to be spat on by every creature as they might a bad and harmful thing. I am a despicable sinner, not worthy to live. But You, Infinite Mercy, lift me to a place of honor. You spared me this humiliation, and, for my sake, you gave up the majesty of Your person and Your divine appearance to be humbled by such outrageous insults and hatred."

As I read John 19:1-15, where Jesus is brought before Pilate by the chief priests and temple police after being scourged, and then the above quote, it brought home to me just what Jesus went through before His crucifixion. He didn't just bear the stripes for our physical healing or punishment for

our sins; He bore the mental and physical humiliation that the world wants to inflict upon those who believe in and on Him. We sometimes 'think' God abandons us, but Jesus actually had His Father turn His back on Him – to 'take' that for us too! Jesus went through the abandonment of God for our sins so the Father would never ever abandon us. SO much was accomplished at the crucifixion, and I think the scourging, the spitting, the beatings, the slapping – were **all** part of the crucifixion. Each thing Jesus went through – every stripe, slap, thorn poke, the humiliation of every kind imaginable, He went through for us. He went through it **for us**. We may think we are going through some tough things at times, but they're nothing compared to what He endured. We haven't experienced anyone yelling for us to be crucified. We haven't had anyone spit on us or ridicule us to the extent Jesus did. Sometimes we need to take an even closer look at what Jesus went through and give Him the honor and the worship He deserves. That closer look will make us truly humbled, knowing everything He went through for us. *Selah*

And then to put our thoughts on His resurrection, oh how wonderful our God is! He has raised us to sit with Him in heavenly places! If you're like me, you don't fully understand that right now but knowing that He (His Spirit) came to live in us when we accepted Him as our Lord and Savior—oh the mystery of this! Oh the wonder! When I think about Jesus appearing to Mary on the morning of His resurrection—to witness His victory over the grave! We never have to fear because of what Jesus did for us. He shares His victory with us! We don't have to be by-standers, we get to LIVE with His victories! In His victories! We serve a Risen Savior! Amen and Amen!

Kathy





His voice was full of reverence. He spoke the Scriptures precisely, but in a way that made it clear they were written in his heart and not just ingrained in his head after years of copying them.

From *An Echo in the Darkness* by Francine Rivers

Jesus

Sorrow doesn't equal transformation. It is right believing that brings about true repentance (change of mind) and hence genuine transformation. It is impossible to truly repent the Bible way—to experience Jesus, His love, His grace, and His power and to allow Him to change your mind and your belief system—and still remain the same.

From *100 Days of Right Believing* by Joseph Prince

What a difference the presence of the sun makes, transforming the world from stagnant darkness into teeming life! You know, faith's journey is much like the journey to dawn. At first we fumble in darkness. But as trust grows and we mature as believers, our momentum builds until Papa God's appointed time when our debut arrives. Each phase of preparation is important and necessary to the end result. At last we burst through the clouds of obscurity to make an eternal difference in someone's life.



From *Too Blessed to be Stressed*
by Debora Coty

Easter Story Wordsearch

K V X D L W M W R D X L H J E R U S A L E M C E
 I W T E Q X R C V D X K X E V B D K C P J F X H
 X G J K A B L E S S E D Q A A Y L P B R L N H E
 W T N B W Z B D N G S Z D D U V T K A A O V R X
 M S T Y G T G B F Q M C N B N F E U L Y X S O O
 Z Q V P A G U A R D S X O A K K C N C W W N S O
 F C I Q H T O M B W H S I X Y M I B U A L I H Z
 Z Q Y T O V L F C B J Y E Z Z T D H S J E R G B
 R E T S A E M Q W U V M Q I D O C M D R Z F R X
 L L D D E I F I C U R C I S T A O F O Z S E S B
 E E N I W H B R C V T U F I O V Z U N M A Q V R
 G E I D O K M W L Y V E F F F H E G K D E F F E
 N Z B E Y B H S O R O Q M X I B W Z E H S S M S
 A J J O E G M E C V M W U P A Z Y X Y B K V O U
 X J G T F L V L C N E J V M L L P A S A J G M R
 K J R U A S D P C K S J S Z A E A K T H X L W R
 J A J P L R F I H D Z U S U X J P L M V Z Z L E
 Y E Z L P Q S C J N G I S Z O G B T A V A U X C
 E N G V T R P S S Y M D S E Y T W G X P M H J T
 B C Q O Z Y S I Q N F Q K P J G K E Z M A U X I
 N K I Q C R B D U C F C N Q I H D A R F D L Q O
 F C S O S L E U F O M Y T X L S V Y Z A Z C E N
 S Z T W H B Z N B K R C T U B V P H S L P D E L
 K O T Y A J A B I F N O V Z C C T T Z I N H S A

ANGEL

CROSS

EASTER

JESUS

RESURRECTION

BETRAY

CRUCIFIED

GUARDS

JUDAS

TEMPLE

BLESSED

DISCIPLES

HEAVEN

PALM

TOMB

BREAD

DONKEY

JERUSALEM

PRAY

WINE



Fellowship BIBLE CHURCH



For Your Fellowship In The Gospel...Phil. 1:5

Temperance, Michigan 48182

Bruce Rodgers, Pastor

(419) 320-7659

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Gathering Times

Sundays at 9 and 10

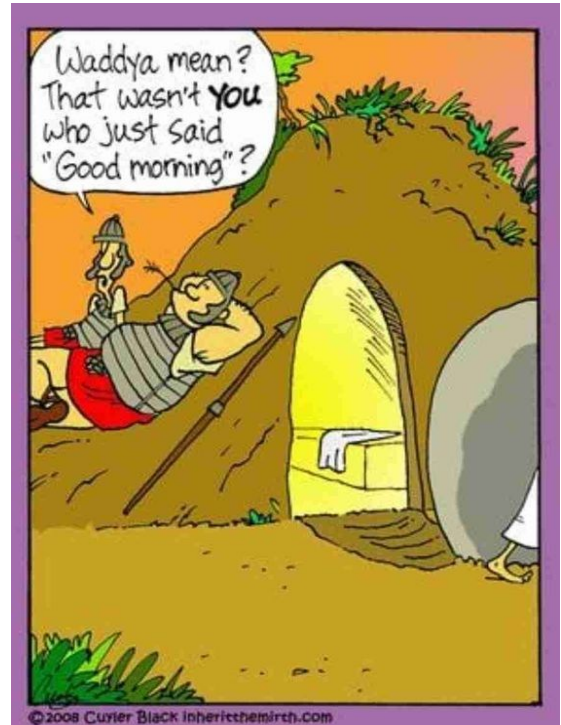
Wednesdays at 6:45



Elizabeth Gozdowski 3rd

Dan Patton 22nd

Stephannie Cherry 29th



I started my day off with two eggs
for breakfast.

They were Cadberry eggs but let's
not get picky!

Each Friday night after work, Bubba would fire up his outdoor grill and cook venison steak. But all of Bubba's neighbors were Catholic, and since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating red meat on Friday.

The delicious aroma from the grilled venison steaks was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their priest.

The priest came to visit Bubba and suggested that he become a Catholic.

After several classes and much study, Bubba attended Mass. The priest sprinkled holy water over him and said, "You were born a Baptist and raised as a Baptist, but now you are Catholic."

Bubba's neighbors were greatly relieved, until Friday night arrived and the wonderful aroma of grilled venison filled the neighborhood. The priest was called immediately by the neighbors.

As the priest rushed into Bubba's yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold him, he stopped and watched in amazement.

There stood Bubba, clutching a small bottle of holy water, which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat while chanting, "You wuz born a deer, you wuz raised a deer, but now you are a catfish."