

Summary

This Easter sermon draws a powerful parallel between chess and God's ultimate victory through Jesus' resurrection. Using the story of a chess champion at the Louvre examining a painting of a chess match between a man and the devil, the pastor illustrates how Satan thought he had won by orchestrating Jesus' crucifixion, but God had 'one more move' - the resurrection. The message emphasizes that no matter how desperate or hopeless a situation may seem, God always has one more move to make in our lives.

Through various biblical examples like Daniel in the lions' den, Paul and Silas in prison, and the Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace, the sermon reinforces that God's power and love never fail, even when circumstances appear impossible. The resurrection serves as the ultimate proof that God's 'one more move' can transform apparent defeat into victory.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your incredible power and the hope we have in You, open our hearts and minds to understand the depth of Your love and the truth that You always have one more move in our lives. Help us to encourage one another and grow in our faith through this discussion. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Have you ever been in a situation that seemed completely hopeless, but then unexpectedly worked out? What happened?

Key Verses

Isaiah 14:12-14

Ezekiel 28:12-15

Luke 24:1-12

Questions

How does the chess analogy help you understand God's ultimate plan of salvation?

Why do you think Satan believed he had won when Jesus was crucified?

What are some areas in your life where you need to remember that God has 'one more move'?

How does the resurrection of Jesus demonstrate God's power over seemingly impossible situations?

Which biblical example mentioned in the sermon (Daniel, Paul and Silas, etc.) resonates most with you and why?

How can we maintain faith when we can't see God's 'next move' in our circumstances?

What does it mean to you that God will 'leave the 99 to find the 1'?

How does knowing that God never gives up on us impact how we live our daily lives?

Life Application

This week, identify one situation in your life that seems impossible or hopeless. Each day, spend time in prayer specifically acknowledging God's power to make 'one more move' in that situation. Keep a journal of how your perspective changes as you trust in God's ability to work beyond what you can see.

Key Takeaways

God's apparent defeats are often setups for His greatest victories

Satan's perceived triumph at the crucifixion became his ultimate defeat through the resurrection

No situation is beyond God's ability to transform and redeem

God never stops pursuing and fighting for His people

The resurrection proves that God always has one more move

Ending Prayer

Lord God, thank You for being the master strategist who always has one more move. Help us to trust in Your perfect timing and power, even when circumstances seem impossible. Thank You for the hope we have through Christ's resurrection. Give us the faith to believe that You are working even when we can't see it. In Jesus' name, Amen.