**Colors of Grace – wk 2 –** **Tyrian (Purple)**

**Jelly beans – some of you are told one thing about Jesus - only to be tricked… bamboozled. Leaving a bad taste in your mouth about God / Jesus / church. Today no games…**

**33 yrs walking earth. 3 yrs preaching the kingdom. Performing miracles. On April 7, 30AD - Jesus was crucified…**

**Jesus did not leave any doubt what He came to do. Headed to Jerusalem –**

**Luke 18:31 Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. 32 He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. 33 On the third day he will rise again." 34The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.**

**Again & again, I must suffer, I must die, I will rise... but why?**

**One thing is clear: The Crucifixion was not a mistake – it was a mission**

**God planned it - saw to it, it came to pass - every detail. 350 prophecies**

#### This was no sad accident - The was the designe by God

#### Eyewitness accounts record that Jesus was (The Cross)

#### 1:00am - Illegally arrested - beaten by the temple guards with rods

#### 1:30am - Trial 1 - Trial before Annas the former high priest

#### 2:00am - Trial 2 - Trial before high priest Caiaphas the high priests

#### 3:00am - chained up in cell for 2-3 hours

#### 5:00am - Trial 3 - Trial before all the priests & elders – He must die!

#### 6:00am - Trial 4 -Trial before Roman governor Pilate – I find no fault

#### 7:00am - Trial 5 - Trial before Herod Antipas – angry sends back

#### 7:30am - Trial 6 - Pilate orders Jesus is to be scourged – the thorns

#### 8:00am - Trial 7 - The people shout crucify!! Pilates final verdict!

#### John 19:16 - 16 Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18 There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

#### 8:30am - Jesus forced to carry his own cross to Golgotha

#### 9:00am - Jesus stripped naked, 7-9 inch spikes driven hands & feet

#### (ripping apart tendons, muscles, and sinews)

#### 9:30am-12pm– Jesus was lifted up to be mocked, ridiculed, spit on

**He embraced suffering to pay for our suffering. Hebrews 12:2 For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame…**

#### 12pm-3pm - Sun nowhere to be found - darkness covers the land

#### The sin of all creation was placed on him. Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom (purchase freedom, payment) for many.”

#### 3pm – Jesus cries out (“It is finished!” - John 19:3)

**As the price is paid, Jesus cries out Literally - paid in full!**

**The cross is payment. Every addict, abuser, murderer…**

**Afterwards Jesus declares - Luke 23:46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.**

**It is fatal – no one survives a Roman crucifixion. They stabbed Jesus in the side – blood and water burst out. Confirmed.**

#### That piece of wood! That symbol - History has idolized it, despised it, gold plated it, burned it, worn it & trashed it - There are attempts to dispute it, disgrace it, discredit it, & dishonor it. But you can’t ignore it.

**1987 yrs ago - that piece of lumber suspended the greatest claim in history of the universe. What will you do with it?**

**Cross bodies are often left for the wild life to eat - but the followers of Jesus would not have it - Mark 15:40 Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. (Witnesses) 41 In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. 42 It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, (wealthy, well known follower / a witness) who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate (gov. authorities) and asked for Jesus’ body. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, (forensic specialist) he asked him if Jesus had already died. 45 When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. (most famous & important disciples nobody ever remembers steps up – he is mentioned in all 4 gospels)**

**Bible confirms His death with named witnesses / a forensic report / and a legal declaration – that call testify authoritatively that Jesus was dead. (white sheet Jesus comes down)**

**(Jewish law prohibits to bury after sunset, they rushed) Mark 15:46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped him in the linen, (white sheet) and placed him in a tomb cut out of rock. (John says Nicodemus helped him) Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. (not a secluded location, but a well-known gravesite of a wealthy family. Fulfills - Isaiah 53:9)**

* **Friday – day one – Jesus dead in the grave. Tears, pain, confusion**
* **Saturday – day two – Jesus dead in the grave.**

**They wake up… it’s not a dream. Reality sinks in – “It’s was over…” Their hope and future, buried. Sabbath – they wait…**

* **Sunday – day three – Jesus dead in the grave.**

**The women head to the tomb to finish burial rites (explain)**

**3 short yrs – they watched him and walked w/ him - then they watched Him die, and walk to his tomb to pay last respects.**

**Mark 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. (Luke’s gospel also mentions Joanna) 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”**

**Who will roll this stone away? They were not strong enough. The barrier was too great. What is your barrier? Fear, anger, discouragement, pride, pain… what have you given up on? It too big, too massive, too powerful – you’re not strong enough!**

**4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.**

**Look up! Look up! By faith – look up! Look at the empty tomb! What do you see? It has been rolled away! It has been moved!**

**5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, (an angel) and they were alarmed. 6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. (Somebody shout!)**

**Angel of the Lord showed up! - Matthew 28:2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. (white sheet)**

**You see - that angel rolled the stone away not so Jesus could out, but so they could get in – and see the faithful of God!**

* **Jesus cannot be stopped by the barriers we have or put up**

**Jesus walks thru walls – John 20:19-20**

* **Jesus moves the barriers in our life so we can see his faithfulness**

**What is your barrier? You might feel like it’s over for you…**

**But when you look up, and see that the stone has been rolled away… everything changes! Look up, it’s been rolled away!**

**Jesus first appears to Mary M. outside the tomb / then to a couple of disciples on a road / then to large of them later that same day in a house…**

**NT records 11 physical sightings of Jesus over next 40 days.**

**1 Cor. Paul says - 500 saw him at one time - ask them yourself**

**It was the Sunday That Changed Everything! Or was it? What if it was just that… a great story? (Lu 24:1-12, Matt 27:62-28:15, Ma 16:1-8, Jo 20:1-31)**

Why Is it Important? What if it’s not true???

**C.S. Lewis - Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. (1 Cor 15:14-18 tells us why?)**

**1 Corinthians 15:14 If Christ has not been raised, (only a good story and nothing else) our preaching is useless and so is your faith.**

**1 – Then Christianity is a pipe dream**

**Like a multilevel scheme built on empty promises. Unattainable daydream. Pipe dream- 19th century refers to dreams experienced when smoking opium pipe. If Jesus is not risen we are high and delusional. If it didn’t happen – this holiday is useless/ worthless.**

**1 Cor 15:15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses (liars) about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.**

**2 – Then the Bible is filled with evil lies and liars**

**Those who wrote it & testified they saw him alive – are all liars and deceptive. Leading millions to an intentional false hope.**

**Then Jesus died a sad death – and his bones are still there.**

**16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.**

**3 – Then Heaven is closed**

**And this life is all there is – we die and cease to exist. We live in sin and die in sin. We are lost forever. Without the resurrection – heaven is a myth at worse or heaven has no vacancies at best.**

**1 Cor 15:19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.**

**4 – Then Christians are pitiful fools**

**Sure, I live a decent life. But embrace persecution and unnecessary trials. If this is fake / unreal – we are pitiful people.**

**1 Cor 15:19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But the fact is Christ has been raised from the dead… (The fact is… it was not a legend or hallucination)**

**He was buried in grief & confusion - but arose a king!**

**He is alive! Trade out white garment for purple.**

**Faith in Jesus is not believing in the unbelievable, it’s acting upon the evidence of the incredible.**

**The evidence is incredible. Amazing authenticated manuscripts, an actual empty tomb, a myriad of named eye witnesses, and millions of incredible transformed lives! JESUS IS ALIVE!**

**The color of grace Tyrian purple – Royalty.**

**He left heaven a king – became a servant and rose again as a glorious victorious king**

**Symbol of royalty for centuries. (Queen Elizabeth forbad anyone except the royal family to wear it) It’s elite status stems from the rarity and dye cost. Rome during Jesus - royal color was Tyrian Purple – royal, imperial…**

**Expensive, because the process was long, difficult, and expensive. 1000’s of tiny snails had to be found, shells cracked - snail removed. (Mts. of empty shells have been found at the ancient sites of Sidon and Tyre).**

**Snails soaked, tiny mucus gland removed, juice extracted, poured in basin, and placed in the sun. The juice turned white, then yellow-green, then green, then violet, then darker red. Changing colors, the process is exact. At the right time - wool, linen or silk would be dyed. Hues varied, but always rich, bright & lasting.**

**The very expensive exact process of Jesus - his life, his death, his blood that was poured out & left out to hang in the sun. That dark day – That dark red blood changed everything… and at the right time! RISEN – The color became royal! Lasting!!!**

**The color of power and authority. Jesus the royal king - King of Kings!**

**Philippians 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, (Jesus is God) did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!**

**9 Therefore God (the Father) exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**That resurrection proclaims his greatness. A king who is greater than:**

* + **Our Debt of sin – our past**
  + **Our Disease and sickness**
  + **Our Depression**
  + **Our Disappointment**
  + **Our Death**

**A king greater than all things! Who’s name alone holds salvation.**

**Acts 4:2 - Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.**

**This has been our prayer for you this Easter - Ephesians 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.**

**We can learn something from that often-forgotten disciple Joseph – the who borrowed his tomb to bury Jesus…**

**He didn’t stand up for Jesus before his death, but after his death he finally spoke up. He risked his life by asking Pilate for the body of Jesus…**

* **It’s never too late to step forward**

**That small step made history (Matt 12:20/ Ma 2:16-17/ Jo 19:38/ Phil 1:6)**

**A small step to the cross today from you today can make history.**