**Easter 2021 - Colors of Grace**

**Jelly beans colors – 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 3, 33AD - 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.**

**The evening before his crucifixion – Jesus Celebrated the Jewish holiday of Passover (aka. last supper) They talked, laughed, Jesus prayed for them, washed their feet - He served them the Passover and said - this lamb is about me - I am about to die... known as the last supper.**

**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 project – the design of God

#### Eyewitness accounts record that Jesus was (Cross – RED sheet)

#### 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

#### 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 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…

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

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

#### Ripping apart tendons, muscles, & sinews- to hang the Christ

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

**He embraced suffering to pay for our suffering.**

**Heb 12:2 For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame**

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

#### 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 – and good person whose heart is dark.**

**Afterwards Jesus final words - 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. (He gave his life – it was not taken!)**

**The cross is fatal – no one survives a Roman crucifixion. They were experts in death! Stabbed Jesus in the side – blood and water burst out – confirming, Jesus is dead.**

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

**1988 yrs ago - that piece of lumber suspended the greatest claim in history of the universe. What will you do with it?**

**Bodies from crucifixions 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. (The 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, (A well-known witness) who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate (the legal authorities) and asked for Jesus’ body. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, (The 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. (the most famous and important disciples nobody remembers steps up (Joseph of Arimathea) mentioned in all 4 gospels)**

**His death is confirmed with named credible witnesses / a formal forensic report / and a legal declaration – all testify authoritatively that Jesus was dead.**

**(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. (it was not a secluded location, but a well-known gravesite of a wealthy family. Fulfills - Isaiah 53:9)**

* **DAY ONE - Friday - Jesus dead in the grave. Tears, pain, confusion**
* **DAY TWO – Saturday - Jesus lies 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…**

* **DAY THREE – Sunday - Jesus still 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.**

**Angel 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. (KING Purple - goes up)**

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

**All they could think of was the barrier until they “looked up!!”**

**What is your barrier? You might feel like it’s over… “Look up! Look up! By faith, look up! The barrier has been rolled away - the empty tomb - that everything changes!**

**Jesus first appears to Mary M. outside the tomb / then to a couple of disciples on a road / then to the large group 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**

**He left heaven a king – became a servant and rose again as a glorious victorious king – this is the color of grace Tyrian purple – Royalty.**

**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 – it was the royal, imperial color.**

**Expensive, because the process was long, difficult, and expensive. 10,000’s tiny snails to make a single robe. (Mts. of empty shells have been found at the ancient sites of Sidon and Tyre).**

**Snails were 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 exactly times. Wool, linen, silk would be dyed.**

**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!**

**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 The Resurrection so 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 marketing scheme built on empty promises - unattainable daydream. Pipe dreams - 19th century refers to dreams experienced when smoking opium pipes. 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 – then they are all liars and deceptive. Leading millions to an intentional false hope.**

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

**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**

**Then we are dead in our sin – separated from God and this life is all there is – we die in judgment or we cease to exist. We live in sin and die in sin. 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’ll live a good decent life. But why 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! Acts tells us he ascended into heaven – to return again. (BLUE Sheet)**

**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!**

**That resurrection proclaims his greatness. A king greater than…**

**Our Debt of sin and our past / Our Disease and sickness**

**Our Depression / Our Disappointment / Our Death**

**A king greater than all Kings and things! Whose name alone holds salvation and the kingdom of heaven!**

**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.**

**Because of the Blood – RED**

**We are washed white as snow – WHITE**

**Made sons and daughters of the royal King Jesus – PURPLE**

**Ascended into the heavens and is returning – BLUE**

**With a promise of eternity in the kingdom of Heaven - GOLD**

**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 Jesus death he risked his life standing before Pilate…**

* **Know this - 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.**

**Communion - It was after the resurrection that they understood that last Passover meal together…**

**Romans 4:25 He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.**

**We are going to remember that night right now.**