

April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday

Opening Scripture: Isaiah 53: 5, 9-11

Sermon Outline 5

**He Chose to Give Us Victory:
God's Promise in the Empty Tomb
Key Chapters: 13-14**

Key Scripture: Romans 8:37

“Overwhelming victory is ours
through Christ who loved us.”

I. Introduction

A. Rafael Rosales was a minister in El Salvador. The Salvadoran guerrillas, viewing him as an enemy, left him to die in a burning car. Rafael escaped the car and the country, but he couldn't escape the memories. The scars left on his body that he saw in the mirror reminded him of his tormentors' cruelty.

B. But one day, the Lord spoke to Rafael's heart and said, “They did the same to me.” As God began to minister to Rafael, he began to see his scars not as a reminder of his pain but as a picture of Jesus' sacrifice. Rafael was able to forgive his attackers. He returned to El Salvador to start a new church.

C. God brought victory out of tragedy for Rafael. He did the same for the world when Jesus walked out of the tomb on Easter Sunday. Today, we will look at the remarkable gift that God provided through the empty tomb.



II. Teaching

A. The Bible tells us that after Jesus was crucified on the cross, his body was laid in the borrowed tomb of a wealthy man.

1. Joseph of Arimathea requested Jesus' body and laid it in his own tomb before sundown on Friday (see Matthew 27:57–60).
2. When women came to care for Jesus' body on Sunday morning, they met an angel who told them Jesus was alive (see Mark 16:4–6).
3. The disciples John and Peter, on hearing the women's report, ran to the empty tomb (see John 20:3–7). The folded grave clothes they saw suggest the tomb had not been robbed. Max writes, "Through the rags of death, John saw the power of life." John "saw and believed" (John 20:8 NIV).

B. Jesus' dead body was raised to new, glorious, physical life.

1. The risen Christ appeared to many of his followers before ascending to heaven. The Bible records many appearances:
 - a. Mary Magdalene (see Mark 16:9–11)
 - b. Other women at the tomb (see Matthew 28:8–10)
 - c. Peter (see Luke 24:34)
 - d. James (see 1 Corinthians 15:7)
 - e. Two disciples on the Emmaus Road (see Luke 24:13–32)
 - f. All the disciples (see John 20:19–20)
 - g. More than 500 followers (see 1 Corinthians 15:6)
2. Jesus' resurrection means that sin and death have been conquered and we can share in Jesus' victory. "And having

disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Colossians 2:15 NIV).

3. At the cross, God won the victory. “But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!” (1 Corinthians 15:57, MSG).

4. We share in Christ’s victory. “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in victory through Christ” (2 Corinthians 2:14 NIV).

III. Application

A. Max concludes, “We all face tragedy. What’s more, we have all received the symbols of tragedy. Yours might be a telegram from the war department, an ID bracelet from the hospital, a scar, a court subpoena. We don’t like these symbols, nor do we want these symbols. Like wrecked cars in a junkyard, they clutter up our hearts with memories of bad days.”

B. What tragedies have you faced? How has God been at work in those very things to bring about a triumph? As Max notes, “God will turn tragedies to triumphs if you only wait and watch.”

C. Death can be a final tragedy, yet even death has been conquered by Jesus. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25–26). Do you believe Jesus? This Easter, Jesus offers you eternal life. Will you receive it as God’s gift to you?

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Suggested Hymn:

#370 in United Methodist Hymnal, "Victory In Jesus"

If you are not musical, you can read the lyrics aloud as a poem.

See links below sermon video for a piano recording you can sing along with.

1. I heard an old, old story,
How a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning,
Of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory.

Chorus

O victory in Jesus,
My Savior, forever.
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.

2. I heard about His healing,
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.
How He made the lame to walk again
And caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,
Come and heal my broken spirit,"
And somehow Jesus came and bro't
To me the victory.

Chorus

3. I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory.
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing,
And the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory.

Chorus