

## Brand New Pt 4: Sin and Separation (v. 2)

- STORY OF NEAR VIOLENCE *a while ago I was invited to a kids birthday party at the house of family knew.*

*-I was aware going in that there were problems in the marriage of the parents: and at the worst possible moment the husband began berating his wife in front of everyone*

*- when I could stand no more,,,, I spoke up,,,,, my voice gave the wife the courage to speak in her own defense,,,*

*-But then a **loud and borderline abusive response** from the Husband silenced his wife sending her RETREATING again into herself*

***-it was immediately evident to me, the way he must have bullied,, intimidated,,, and scared her** for her to react in such a retreating way like a dog with tail tucked between its legs*

***-I nearly came unglued,,, the way he must have stifled her spirit became clear to me as I saw her disappear into herself at the raising of his voice,, I believed he probably abused her.....***

*-As the husband was now unreasonable I made a split second decision to get up and leave the house before I put him through a wall.*

*-i dont say that to condone violence or even to say that the problems in this marriage were all his fault*

*-I knew, in that moment, if there was not a separation between me and this man this situation would go places nobody wanted.*

*-i had to go outside and think for a minute before I re-entered that situation,,, which I did ...*

**-had I stayed in the room :**

*-I would have hurt the man -I would have scarred his children*

*-i would have obliterated that birthday. -i probably would have gone to jail*

*-i would have hypocritically used anger, coercion, and violence; to condemn anger coercion and violence*

*-Today we are going to talk today about the most fundamental problem that the Resurrection resolves. **Sin & Separation***

*-Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

**Our sin brought a degree of Separation between us and God.**

*-If we go back to the Creation story in Genesis we can see that originally people were in close relationship with God.*

*-He created us in his image to live in relationship with him*

*-he created us to know and do his will and share with him in shaping creation*

-When we chose our will over God's a few things happened:

-we put ourselves in the place of God,,, rebelling.....

-we invited sin and evil into God's good creation (**why world is broken**)

-WE CAUSED A SEPARATION between us and God

-Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden and from the physical presence of God.

**-Humanity has been held at a distance from God, ever since**

-This isn't just theory and theology. We can Feel the effects of the Separation.

-we see evidence of God everywhere, but we often wonder WHERE IS HE

-why doesn't he feel present in my problems

-why if he is God and is good the world seem so broken

-why does evil seem to flourish.....

-There are so many ways it plays out but I am sure we have all felt and experienced the question of "if God is real, why don't feel him, why doesn't he act, why are things so messed up?"

## **The separation from God is for our protection.**

-Have you ever really loved someone, but they were doing something so infuriating that while it broke your heart the only solution was to create distance between you?

*-In that moment at that birthday, I knew that Separation was the most merciful thing,,, and that maybe once distance defused the situation we might be able to find a way forward to reconciliation.*

-that is what God has done for us

-People are God's beloved Children. He takes immense Joy in us.

-when we sin, we hurt each other, our selves, and the creation

***-our sin makes us like the husband in that that story,,,***

-God stands looking at us and *unlike me with that man,,,* God would be totally just to unleash judgment on us,,, to let his anger and wrath be FULLY VENTED

-In those situations the divine Retribution of God would be justice.

**-But,** because God is so merciful he allowed for a separation between us and him, until our sin could be properly dealt with.

*-like he had to go out in the front yard and figure some stuff out before continuing...*

## **We cannot make our way back to God, but God has created ways for us to still be connected to him.**

-First: Old Covenant System for Israel. -Now through Jesus for all mankind

-In the Old Testament, Ancient Israel had a deal with God where they sacrificed animals as a temporary covering for their sins so that they could maintain relationship with God. *(petting zoo joke)*

**-DAY OF ATONEMENT**

-the high priest would confess the sins of the people over the head of a goat, symbolically placing guilt on that goat,,, that goat would then die in punishment for sin

-then there was a second goat and the sins were again confessed over that goat and it was lead out of the city into the wilderness where it would get lost alone

**-symbolically the goat would endlessly wander away from the people**

*-the sins were not fully and finally dealt with,,, they were left waiting like an AIRPLANE in a HOLDING PATTERN*

*-the guilt of the people was just waiting out there until something could resolve it*

-So Israel had this relationship with God that was made possible by the sacrificial system.

-but the system did not fully cleanse them

-the sacrifices did not actually Resolve the problem,,, but Postponed it

-But even though the sacrificial system was temporary, it did allow God to work with and through Ancient Israel.

-Through that system people had limited and incomplete contact with God.

## **-Then Jesus came:**

-It was time for the permanent solution for Our Sin and the Separation.

-God became flesh and walked among us.... as Jesus

**-Jesus lived the righteous life men and women should have lived**

**-Then Jesus died the death our sin deserved**

*-Jesus did these things AS A MAN on the BEHALF of Men and Women (like a spokesman)*

-Instead of sheep and goats experiencing God's wrath in our place, God's own Son Jesus took the weight of the Wrath of God Once and for all.

-Question: Was Jesus' death enough to resolve sin and the Separation that results?

-1 Corinthians 15:16-ff. 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. .... 20-22 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

## **The Resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that his payment for Sin was accepted. We have been fully and finally Forgiven.**

-verse 15 says *"if Christ hasn't been raised then our faith is futile and you are still in your sin"*

-Since Jesus was raised, Paul says we can conclude that our faith is not futile and we are no longer "in our sin".

-So Isaiah told us that our sin caused separation, but now Paul tells us that the Resurrection is evidence that we are No longer in our sin.

-Jesus' sacrifice fully satisfied the wrath of God against human sin.

-the resurrection shows God's posture toward us now.

***-Jesus represented humanity before God,, so what God did for Jesus after his death shows how God NOW FEELS toward humanity. (at least all who are IN JESUS)***

-Paul also said, that in the same way Jesus was raised, we will be raised eternal.

-But here is the really exciting part, we will not be raised back into an existence that functions like this one.

**-Jesus was the solution for the Sin and subsequent Separation we experience**

-Because of Jesus the age of the Separation of God and Humanity is coming to an end.

-it is beginning to end now through Christ,,,,

-when we put our faith in Jesus our sin is forgiven and God's Spirit can take up Residence in our lives

-to a certain degree we can HAVE COMMUNION with him

-to a certain degree we can know him,,,, hear from him ,,,, even see his involvement in our life

- but in current form Our Contact with is still Limited
- we are still somewhat subject to the Separation Resulting from Sin

-That will finally and fully end for us in our Resurrection

-There is a scripture we have read each week for the last few,,,,, this passage describes a vision the Apostle John saw from God,,,,, in this vision we see the moment that **WE ENTER THE RESURRECTION AGE**

-this is the moment when the resurrection of Jesus becomes **THE REALITY** for us also  
-Rev. 21:1-5 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “**Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.** 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”  
5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

-The Resurrection of Jesus is like a Deposit Guaranteeing a future resurrection of all who are in Jesus.

-In that Resurrection the Separation brought between Father God and his Children will **FOREVER DISAPPEAR.**

-his dwelling place will be among the people and we will be **HIS PEOPLE** and God himself will **BE WITH US** and be **OUR GOD.**

-Summarize the Resurrection Account of John 19:38- 20:16

- Jesus died on the cross and all those close to him were in hiding
- two men who were not part of the 12 had to take responsibility for the body and one of them placed Jesus’ body in his own tomb **in a nearby garden**
- on the morning of the 3rd Day some of the women came to the tomb to do a more thorough job of prepping the body for burial
- they arrive at the tomb and find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty
- they run back to get the 12 and Peter and John come running to see
- they see the empty tomb and wonder what was going on,,,, John begins to believe
  - perplexed and in thought they head back to the house leaving Mary alone at the tomb
- she is crying thinking someone has stolen Jesus body when she looks in the tomb and sees two angels
  - the ask her why she is crying and tell her he is raised from the dead as he said
  - she does not yet believe
- then suddenly she senses a man behind her and she turns to face Jesus, but does not recognize him as Jesus, **she assumes he is the gardener**
- she asks him
  - “if you have taken the body please tell me and I will go get it back”

-Jesus look at her and simply says “**Mary**”

-somehow at hearing him say her name,, she immediately knows it is Jesus

-She screams TEACHER and throws herself into one of those “knock you down hugs”

-a hug where it looks like you are trying to pull the person inside your body....

**-Jesus stands in a warm embrace IN A GARDEN as the FIRST EXAMPLE of the RESURRECTION THAT WOULD one day be extended to ALL WHO EMBRACE HIM**

**-Summation:** *(from Garden to Garden)*

-Where did God originally Create people and Live in Relationship with them?

**-Garden** of Eden

-Where did men and women fall into sin and get Exiled From God’s presence?

**-Garden**

-Where did Jesus pray to the Father to NOT DIE on the cross,, but then regardless of what he wanted,, SUBMIT TO THE WILL OF THE FATHER?

**-Garden** of Gethsemane

-Where was Jesus was Resurrected as the Representative of all Mankind???

**-IN a GARDEN.**

*-Remember Jesus did all that he did AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF MANKIND*

*-So mankind came out from God’s will in a garden,, and Jesus brought mankind back into obedience to God’s will in a garden,,,,, the resurrected NEW VERSION of MANKIND is now seen again IN THE GARDEN*

-Paradise Created, Paradise Lost / Separate, Paradise Regained.

**-NO MORE SEPARATION BETWEEN the ETERNAL FATHER AND HIS CHILDREN.**

**-4 Evidence of the Resurrection:**

-1. If the gospel writers were going to lie, there are many details they would have left out.

-peters denial,,,, everyone running for their lives.

-They SO FEARFUL that Jesus’ body had to be buried by these other two men,,,,, this should have been the 12!! **(shameful)**

-They would not have said WOMEN were FIRST WITNESSES,,,, women were seen as uneducated and therefor unreliable,,,, they were not allowed to testify in court....

-the only reason you would say that a woman saw him first was if it were true,, you would not make up a detail like that,, it would be counterproductive.

-2. The Resurrection was first preached in Jerusalem where the tomb was.

-if the tomb were not empty that would have ended it

- 3. Unexplained Transformation in the Jesus followers: Cowards to Courageous Martyrs.
- 4. No other Motive for preaching the resurrection other than the resurrection: for the first 300 years of church history preaching the resurrection usually GOT YOU KILLED.

**-The Resurrection isn't metaphor, or religious sentimental talk. Jesus WAS DEAD AND THEN HE WAS NOT DEAD!**

-The WORST that COULD HAPPEN all HAPPENED

-the full weight of evil crashed down on him

-the full Wrath of God against sin was Satisfied on him

-the force of all the powers of man, government, and social orders all lined up against him

*-anything that can be against someone was against Jesus.*

-But then in spite of all that was done, Jesus walked out of that TOMB ALIVE,,, and he even stopped to fold up his grave clothes on the way out.

**-The resurrection of Jesus changes the equation on everything.**

**-no matter what you face today Jesus is so overwhelmingly superior that he can win that battle while folding laundry.**

## **-RESPONSES:**

-If you are already a follower of Jesus,,, today should bring you Overwhelming Joy, Excitement, as you look to that day when YOU will live in the uninterrupted presence and glory of God..... NO MORE SEPARATION or DISTANCE at all....., and there is nothing that can come against you that does not become insignificant once the Resurrection is figured into the equation.

-Maybe for you Question Needs to be asked *"Have I put my faith in Jesus and found my life in Following Him?"*

-the promise of Jesus is that through him Human separation from God and everything eternal will totally end..... Do I know that my separation from God is ended in Jesus?

-What would it look like for ME TO Follow Jesus?