February 18, 2024

Jesus Saves!?

Overview

Luke 19:1-10

The Story of Salvation

From something bad (rescue) into something good (wholeness)

The Bible is a salvation story (*heilsgeschichte*) in two parts

Part One (OT): Physical Realm Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land: Moses

Bad: slavery, oppression, loss of identity; **Good**: freedom, thriving, identity

Part Two (NT): Exodus from Spiritual Realm of Unraveling Sin to Abundant Life: Jesus

You shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins: **Matthew 1:21**

Bad: slavery, disintegration, loss of identity; **Good**: freedom, shalom, identity

How We Tell the Story of Salvation

We tend to truncate the story into its last chapter (eternal life with God, escape hellfire)

This is like summing up the Lord of the Rings with "Frodo threw the ring into the fires of Mordor"

The three verb tenses of salvation: past, present, future

The metaphor of the lost boy and the westbound wagon train

Jesus saved us: decisive act that changed history, decisive act in my life: **Titus 3:4-6**

Jesus is saving us: a continual, incremental, ever-renewing process: **1 Corinthians 1:18, Phil 2:12**

Jesus will save us: the fulfillment of all things being healed awaits: **Romans 5:10**

The Microcosm of the Story of Zacchaeus

For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost: **Luke 19:10**

The entirety of Jesus' incarnation was a rescue mission

Every healing, compassionate exchange, offer of forgiveness, exorcism, insight, challenge

He was saving people all along the way: "Today salvation has come to this house": **Luke 19:9**

From the tyranny of greed, from meanness, from isolation, to generosity and restoration

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The 2024 Lenten Journey

Date	Focus
2/14 Ash Wed	Introducing the Theme Jesus Saves!?
2/18 Week One	Overview of Salvation History and How to Tell the Story
2/25 Week Two	Jesus Saves from the Tyranny of Dark Ignorance
3/3 Week Three	Jesus Saves from the Tyranny of the Black Hole of Self
3/10 Week Four	Jesus Saves from the Tyranny of Despotic Idolatry
3/17 Week Five	Jesus Saves from the Tyranny of Isolation & Identity Amnesia
3/24 Week Six Palm Sunday	Jesus Saves from the Tyranny of Suffocating Despair
3/31 Easter	Jesus Saves from the Tyranny of the Last Enemy Death

And introducing the Bedtime Pause Cards!

Take a ring of ***Bedtime Pause Cards*** with you today. There is a prompt card for each day of Lent that corresponds with our Sunday themes and helps us to carry the reflections of the saving work of Jesus throughout our weeks from Sunday to Sunday. Each prompt invites a few minutes of engagement, a great way to settle the mind and soul in preparation for a good night's sleep. The current rings have the first 24 cards of the set. The remaining cards will be distributed on Sunday, March 3.

And the Daily Noontime Lord's Prayer Practice!

And set your watches and phones to a daily ring at NOON to remind you to pray the Lord's Prayer every day during Lent together with your dispersed Highland family. This is a simple practice that can cohere us together during our busy weeks and keep our eyes on Jesus the Savior, who feeds us, forgives us, delivers and protects us, and brings His kingdom into our worlds.