

THE DAY OF JUSTIFICATION

Luke 24:1-27

Introduction: Easter is all God's doings. It is not about some rabbit hiding eggs for children to find but it is the day when prophecies were fulfilled, those of the Old Testament and those Jesus made about Himself. So much happened on that day that it is beyond any man's ability to comprehend all that happened.

I. GOD MADE THAT DAY

1. Psalm 118:22-24
 - "...*This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it...*"
2. Friday before that Sunday was the world's darkest night for it was the time of the power of darkness.
 - Judas betrayed Jesus.
 - Pilate judged Jesus.
 - Peter denied Jesus.
 - Jesus' disciples deserted Him.
 - The Jews cried for Jesus' death.
 - The Gentiles mocked Jesus.
3. Thankfully God's Day followed that dreadful Friday, like light following darkness.
 - God created the day of Easter with no help from people.
 - Jesus rose from the dead that day with no help from people.
 - Easter Day is offered to us as a gift.
4. Exactly what kind of day was it that God made on that first day of the week? It was the Day of Justification.
 - "Justification" means to pronounce righteous, made right.

II. ON THAT DAY GOD JUSTIFIED HIMSELF

1. Why should God need to justify Himself?
 - On that Easter morning, God showed to all the world His own righteousness, revealing that He was just and right in all that He did, with Israel and with Jesus and with us today.
2. God justified His patience.
 - For centuries death seemed to be supreme, seemingly that God couldn't stop it or care for He didn't interfere or stop killings, tragedies, etc.
 - What was God waiting for? Why didn't God do something about death?
 - God had been waiting to reveal His righteousness in power, not just to prevent death, but to **OVERCOME** death, even after death had struck.
3. God justified His silence.
 - God was silent when Jesus prayed in the Garden, "...*My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me...*" (Matthew 26:39)

- It seemed that God turned away and refused to answer Jesus' prayer but Jesus had added,
"...not as I will, but as thou wilt..."
- God was silent when Jesus cried out on the cross, *"...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?..." (Matthew 27:46)*
- The crowd noticed that God didn't answer Jesus' cry and they mocked and made fun of Him.
- *Matthew 27:42, 43*

4. Then God tore the curtain in the temple, opening the Holy of Holies so that all could see within and the earth shook but again silence.
 - Where was God?
 - God was silently waiting for that special Day of Justification.

III. ON THAT DAY GOD JUSTIFIED HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST

1. Jesus, whom God made to be sin and thus made to die, is justified by God for God raised Jesus up from the dead.
2. God justified the claims that Jesus made.
 - Jesus told Mary and Martha, *"...I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.." (John 11:25:26)*
 - Jesus told the Jews that they were from this world, but that He was not of this world.
 - Jesus promised that He would return to receive His own into the place that He was preparing for them.
 - Jesus said, *"...everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day..." (John 6:40)*
 - God proved every claim that Jesus made to be true, on that Easter morning.
3. God justified the life of Jesus.
 - Jesus lived everything He taught.
 - *Matthew 6:25; Luke 12:15, 23; John 12:23*

IV. ON THAT DAY GOD JUSTIFIED MANKIND

1. *Romans 4:24-25*
2. God justifies the creature, man.
 - God made man in His own image but man rebelled against that image by sinning.
 - God kept giving mankind one chance after the other, one prophecy after another, one leader after another, one hope after another and finally God gives mankind it's last chance, the world's last hope.
 - God gives the human race His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

3. God justifies the sinner.

- That Easter day sinners (us) are assured that they can be saved and that their salvation is just for on that day of Jesus' resurrection God demonstrated that He can be righteous and yet at the same time justify the ungodly and that He can be "*...just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus...*"

CONCLUSION:

1. Since it is God who justifies, who can condemn us?
2. Easter is God's Day of Justification for all who would believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.
3. What does Easter really mean to you? Does it mean the same thing to you that it does to God and the Lord Jesus Christ?