

# 10 P.M.

FOLLOWING Christ in Everyday Life



# 10 Pin

FOLLOWING Christ in Everyday Life

I am far from a professional bowler and I must admit the 10 pin is my arch enemy. The ball will seem to be a perfect roll, but when the dust settles there in the corner stands one lone pin... that is part of bowling. There are always more pins. Even when you get a strike, the pins quickly reset, ready to be knocked down again.

You have accepted Christ as your savior—walked down the aisle and told the church, but now what? You have seen pictures of missionaries, read the stories of the disciples, even heard Sean rambling on Wednesday nights, but what does this decision mean to YOUR REAL LIFE? A life filled with school, television, sports... even bowling. What does Christ mean to everyday things? Is walking down the aisle the only thing or is there MORE?

Taking the ordinary image of bowling we are about to learn our decision to accept Christ was not choice to walk down an aisle, but a promise to follow Christ everyday of our lives—even while bowling! Just like bowling, where the pins are constantly reset, Christ is continually calling for us to follow Him further.

We will look at 10 pins, or points, of our choice. Some will outline the basics, others will illuminate how everyday life with Christ looks. Each pin will have a [bible passage](#), a [short story](#) describing the passage, and a [question](#) for you to ponder (check out the outline to the right). Take one pin a day and when you have completed the “strike” grab the ticket at the end for a free game of bowling with Sean!



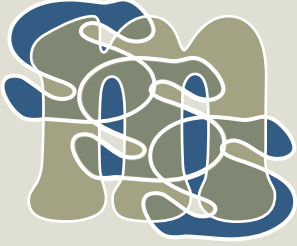
**Wednesday**



**plunge!**  
ezekeiel 47

6:00 PIZZA  
6:30 Main Event

**Sunday School**



9:45 am



Now that you have completed the 10 pin study you may be asking yourself, "Hang on, this book never told me how to follow Jesus everyday! Where are the steps?" Don't stress, by doing this study you have experienced the central keys to following Jesus. First you have read scripture—an account of how God has brought salvation—which gives you an example to follow. Second and most importantly, you have prayed for God to show you the way! These two steps lead to the third: living out what God reveals.

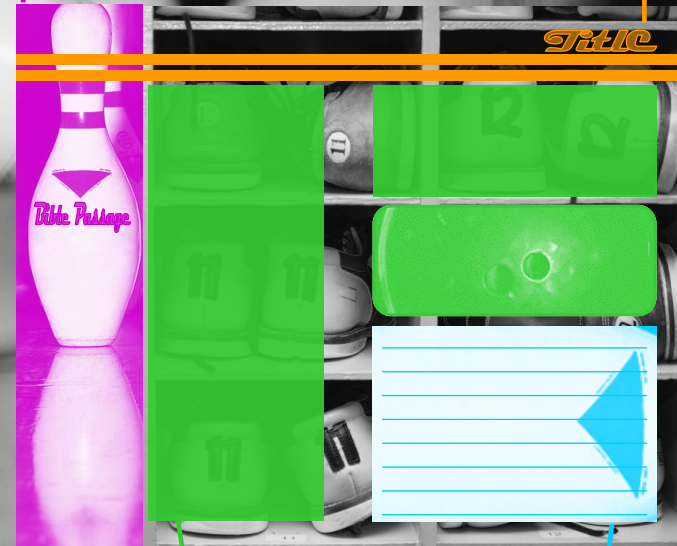
So let me challenge you to KEEP PRAYING, ask Christ "what now", and read the scripture. Start off by reading one chapter from the book of John every day. Finally, live it out and you will be following Christ in everyday life!

### PIN Title

Subject of the lesson. Say a prayer, asking God to teach you about this subject!

### Bible Passage to Read and Key Quote:

Why the Bible? Certainly it is old and often a little dusty on our shelves, but it tells the story of how God is working to bring salvation to the world. Some will say it fell out of heaven to us, but we know that is not true... a book that big would hurt! Instead it is a conglomeration of 66 books, each telling a part of the story of salvation. So many different authors revealing how God is paving a way to save us all!



### Short Story

My take on the Bible passage and why it is important for following Christ!

### Question to Ponder

Though I write brilliant stories (ha!) I am not the one you are following. So really who cares what I think! Instead take time to ask Jesus what all this means, ask him to teach you and give you the answers to live Everyday!



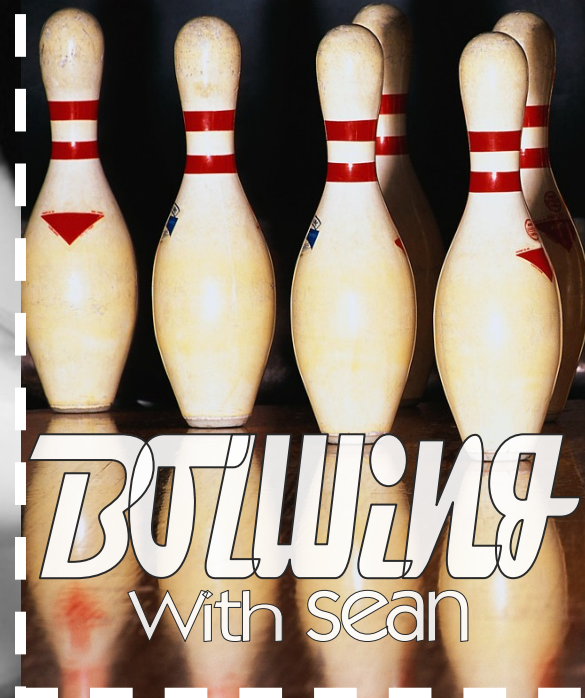
## Genesis 2

**8 THEN THE MAN AND HIS WIFE HEARD THE SOUND OF THE LORD GOD AS HE WAS WALKING IN THE GARDEN IN THE COOL OF THE DAY, AND THEY HID FROM THE LORD GOD AMONG THE TREES OF THE GARDEN. 9 BUT THE LORD GOD CALLED TO THE MAN, "WHERE ARE YOU?"**

I am a life-long Kansas City Royals fan, but constant losing has made it tough to root for my team. This past season, as the team closed in on yet another 100 loss season, I decided to search for something positive in baseball. I picked up a book I had often heard of titled The Natural. I only knew this book was about a great baseball player. So I dove into the pages expecting stories of baseball lore; instead, I found the story of Roy Hobbs. He was the natural, a complete ball player, fantastic in every facet of the game; yet, he never played. It was not for lack of trying, but something always stood in his way, even a gun shot wound. Finally, when he grew old by baseball standards, the chance to suit up and play finally came. He became a sensation over night, breaking records left and right. Yet, trouble soon finds him and he is kicked out of the game, his records stripped from the books. He was the natural, built to be the perfect baseball player, but he never really played the game...

We are a lot like Roy Hobbs, the natural. As you have read in Genesis, the beginning of humanity looks completely different than the world today. For one thing there is no technology,

one ticket



## Congratulations

Good job completing the 10 Pin study. As a reward for your diligence I will take you out bowling! No need to cut out the ticket, it is just for looks, instead give me a call and we will set things up!

Check out one last challenge on the next page!

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I am far from a professional bowler and I must admit the 10 pin is my arch enemy. The ball will seem to be a perfect roll, but when the dust settles there in the corner stands one lone pin... but one thing about bowling is that even the professional aren't perfect. Sure they get a lot of strikes, but how often does a PBA star roll a perfect game. It happens, but not very often, and no one has done it every game in a career!

In the same way, while you follow Christ you are going to make mistakes. Sometime you will lose your temper or another time you will wake up to realize you have not prayed in weeks! Know that when you have left the 10 pin standing or thrown a gutter ball, the bowling ball returns to give you another chance.

There is grace with Christ. He will stand by you, even when you forget He is there.

Everyday through everything!

but there is also no work! The major difference is our relationship with God. Adam and Eve walked in the garden with God; but sin contorted our natural state. We no longer cruise through life without work, nor do we walk physically with God! Our natural relationship with God is broken by sin!

What is sin? Sin at its root is not following God. In a basic sense it is like when a child says "no" to their parents. Sin is us refusing to live as God would have us! But it goes beyond just saying "no" to God, to what motivates our actions. Often the reason I do or don't do is because "Megan would be upset" or "I will make my parents happy". A good judge of our motivation is what we think when we are tempted to do something wrong. Often I think of the consequences or punishment, they motivate me to not commit evil. Yet this motivation is wrong, God should be my sole motivation! Every action should be made according to God's will.

How has sin changed the world? ~ What is your motivation in life?



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## Genesis 11:1-9

**4 THEN THEY SAID, "COME, LET US BUILD OURSELVES A CITY, WITH A TOWER THAT REACHES TO THE HEAVENS, SO THAT WE MAY MAKE A NAME FOR OURSELVES AND NOT BE SCATTERED OVER THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH."**

In the Christmas Story the desperate search for the Red Rider BB-gun is put on hold when a telegram arrives announcing a "major award". The award, as you know, comes in a box marked with the French word "fra-gee-lay" and inside lies the trophy of a showgirl's leg lamp. To the mother's horror the glowing leg is set in the living room window for all the world to see.

With the window aglow by the lamp, the neighbors quickly gather to stare. All the while, the wife sits simmering inside. She cannot believe the monstrosity is sitting in her window. Of course in the following weeks, while she is watering, the lamp is conveniently knocked off the stand and broken.

In the US we love the person who can pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. The clutch player who hits the homerun, the regular guy whose invention brings millions, the hero who goes recklessly into burning buildings. We love the person who overcomes, who doesn't need help, who is strong enough.

Back to the movie, the father is devastated by the lamp's demise, but he believes it can be repaired. As he goes to get glue, he shouts out my favorite line, "not a finger"! He can repair the lamp without anyone. Yet, as we know the glue is unsuccessful and the remains of the leg are buried in the backyard...

testimonies of life, people sharing with each other the stories they love. Some are funny, some are sad, some are exciting, some boring; but we want to talk to people about ourselves.

Our stories are what Jesus is calling us to tell the world. He doesn't want us to share random facts, instead we should tell everyone how Jesus has changed us! You tell your friends about going to the mall, in the same breath, tell them about church. Or about what you read in the bible. Tell them about YOUR life with Christ!

Going where? ~ Growing up I always thought this verse was about missionaries GOing to the edge of the world. Yet a cool thing about Greek is that it labels which words are the most important and the key verb is MAKE not go! Jesus is putting the emphasis on making disciples not going to a far off land! Now we should ask how did Jesus make disciples? He built relationships with people; he hung out with them! So this verse is calling us to follow Christ as we hang out with our friends, our family, with anyone. As we live life, we should MAKE DISCIPLES.

How can you tell your friends about following Christ?

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## Matthew 28

**<sup>19</sup>THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, <sup>20</sup>AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE."**

Snow was falling when we came home and as we burst out of the car we could not help ourselves but play. Even my dad was unable to resist the urge and soon snowballs were flying across the yard. After the battle we made angels in repentance and ate the falling flakes for celebration. Then the cold began to bite and we headed inside for hot chocolate by the fire.

Only one thing detracted this scene from mirroring a Norman Rockwell setting: my soaked tennis shoes. I had been too excited to change them and now each step was a slosh. I jerked them off as I came in, but I wondered how they would dry in time for school the next day. Then brilliance hit me in the form of hot air from the heat vent. Flipping my shoes upside down over the floor vent, the hot air would quickly make them toasty warm. With confidence I left to join my family by fire...

I was right about the shoes drying; unfortunately, wet shoes give off a very distinct odor—at least mine do! So as the hot air blew over the shoes and out into the house, it carried the smell of my tennis shoes. While we enjoyed hot cocoa and a warm fire, the rest of the house filled up with the thick sent of sweaty feet!

Of course the big story of the holidays became my brilliant actions and the aroma of our house. This was entirely natural, not that I wanted the story spread, but people love to tell stories. The world is filled with

Sometimes, no matter how hard we try, things cannot be fixed. No matter how much we want to do it ourselves, how much we want to save ourselves, the problem of sin is beyond our repair. The tower of Babel is a shining example of humans trying to fix their relationship with God. God did not stop them because they were going to build a tower which led to heaven, that cannot be done. He stopped them, because people are unable to repair the problem and as long as we try we will only get farther from the truth!



### What is the Tower of Babel?

The tower is more than likely a Ziggurat. This ancient temple was like the pyramids, but instead of encasing the tomb of the Pharaohs it was a house for the gods. Inside the huge tower was filled with dirt, but the key was a small room on top. This room was made like a bedroom, with a bed and continually stocked with fresh food. They thought god would come down to bless them and rest here in this room.

Of course we know this does not create a way to meet God.

Why did the people think God needed food? ~ How does sin hurt our relationship with God?

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Students are often heard complaining about school, saying things like, "I wish I never had to learn math." So let's imagine all the leaders of the world, tired of hearing their children complain, decided to outlaw teaching math.

At first our lack of math knowledge would not be a big deal since parents, then grandparents, could count or add for us. Yet as time progresses there would soon be no one who had ever been taught math! This would surely lead to chaos as even the basic task of paying for dinner would be impossible without adding a total or subtracting for change...

The world's relationship to God was a lot like this. At first Cain and Abel could ask their parents what God was like and their kids could ask grandparents. When Adam and Eve passed on, there would be stories to tell, yet through time knowledge of God would slowly slip away—the stories confused or forgotten. This led to the events of Babel, where people built a room for God to eat and sleep—as though He needs the same things we do! BUT all the while, God was at work to save us!

Genesis 11:27-12:9

**<sup>2</sup> "I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION AND I WILL BLESS YOU; I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING.**

**<sup>3</sup> I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND WHOEVER CURSES YOU I WILL CURSE; AND ALL PEOPLES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU."**

Who is leading ~ Occasionally I will see a bumper sticker which proclaims "God is my co-pilot" or "Jesus is my co-pilot". At first this sounds great, a Christian with Jesus riding alongside! Yet, this is not at all what Christ has called us to do. We should not treat our relationship with God like He is Dear Abbey, we don't check in with Him when we need advice! He has called us to follow Him and He doesn't want to ride shotgun. He wants to direct us, to drive us, the sticker should say, "Jesus is my driver, God the Father is my co-pilot, the Holy Spirit is my navigator" ... which I guess leaves us as the flight attendant!



Baptism is not required for salvation; so, why is baptism important?

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## Matthew 3

**16 AS SOON AS JESUS WAS BAPTIZED, HE WENT UP OUT OF THE WATER. AT THAT MOMENT HEAVEN WAS OPENED, AND HE SAW THE SPIRIT OF GOD DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE AND LIGHTING ON HIM.**

While using the facilities I noticed there are always quib sayings in peoples' restrooms. You know phrases like, "love makes the world go 'round". I guess they assume they have you there for a minute, so why not inspire! There is one, though, which I always enjoy reading: Footprints. I am sure you have read it before, but let me give you a brief summary. A man has a dream where he is walking along a beach with the Lord. Looking back he is able to see all the events of his life, and he notices two sets footprints in the sand, one his the other God's. Yet as he looks back he notices during the darkest, most troubling points of his life there is only one of set of prints. Did God leave him in those moments? When asked God answers, "During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

The act of baptism—which literally means immerse—is really a symbol of something happening in our hearts. Before you are immersed in the water, our pastor says, "buried with Christ", then as you come up out of the water, "risen to walk in new life". This symbolizes how our sinful nature died with Christ on the cross and God has given us a new spirit, the Holy Spirit, to replace the old. This new spirit lives inside us and it is actually the spirit of God! Hence when we look back on our life we will see two sets of prints—because the Spirit walks with us!

Back to the illustration of math, if you were to re-teach the world the lesson could not begin with calculus. Instead it would start with the basics of counting and addition. In the same way God could not come to the world as Jesus and expect us to understand. So He called a man named Abraham and began teaching him the basics.

Nation building? ~ Abe had kids and they had kids and they had... All the while the family stayed united under God and his promise.



When they grew large enough they became a nation. The people were called the Jews and the nation Israel—the same one we find on the map today (see left). Of course the world was not blessed by a nation, but a person. For out of the nation/family of the Jews came Jesus, a blessing for the world!

When God blesses, what do others receive?...

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Luke 1:26-80

**68<sup>th</sup> PRAISE BE TO THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, BECAUSE HE HAS COME AND HAS REDEEMED HIS PEOPLE.**

**74<sup>th</sup> TO RESCUE US FROM THE HAND OF OUR ENEMIES, AND TO ENABLE US TO SERVE HIM WITHOUT FEAR**

**75<sup>th</sup> IN HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE HIM ALL OUR DAYS.**

During summer break my mom allowed us to watch one movie a day, my sister or I would choose which movie every other day (I do not know why my little brother was not given a choice?... he will probably need counseling). Needless to say, we liked different movies. So every other day I found myself watching a musical, like Grease or Sound of Music. Yet one summer reigns as the worst, because my sister got into a kick where she only chose one musical: White Christmas. In the middle of the hot summer, all I could hear was "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know..." ~ all I knew was that I hated White Christmas, really all musicals!

Of course in real life, people don't break into song. Sometimes people hum or whistle, but the rest of us give them strange looks (I know because I hum and whistle all the time... I guess it is the curse of my sister!). Yet here in Luke we find people breaking out into song, first Mary, then Zechariah! It is like the gospel has become a musical... I wonder if they choreographed a dance! Still, if there was ever a moment for song and dance it was then. Musicals become ridiculous because they are singing about snow or living hills. But when we find the true dream of Christmas, how can we not join the Angel's song...

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests"

Luke 2:14

Believing facts alone is not our decision; rather we trust and commit. Every time Christ calls us to believe there is a constant theme which runs alongside: follow. Our decision was a commitment to follow Christ out of darkness into light, to let our own will DIE and to allow the will of Christ to lead!

Why do we walk down an aisle and pray? ~ Outside of the Price is Right, no one walks down aisles accept the Baptist church. We speak so intensely about "coming forward" you would think Jesus commanded us to—BUT he didn't! (The only rituals he commanded us to do are baptism and the Lord's supper.) So why do we force people down the aisle? Well, it is a tradition and many churches do it differently. Still, the tradition is based on Jesus teaching that we must acknowledge him before men. So we walk down the aisle to declare the decision we have already made in our hearts to follow Jesus! The prayer is putting our commitment into words!

What does it mean to take up our cross and follow?...

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In the late night hours a quiet village in Germany was awakened by explosions. No it wasn't the bombs of an air raid; instead, the blasts were coming from the neighborhood pond. Baffling scientists, this little lake is home to a large population of frogs, which recently have begun to explode! Around 2:00 in the morning the green amphibians come out of the water and once they are on land their bodies begin to expand to three times the normal size... then... BOOM!!! Their innards explode, shooting up to three feet! (I could not make this up—<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200504/s1352292.htm>)

Before, no one noticed these little frogs, until they started to explode. Just as no one today seems to notice the church, but maybe it is because we are not filling up with Christ. What if you filled up with God until you blew up?! People would notice! Now you may say, "but Sean those frogs died!" ~ EXACTLY!!!

The thought of dying for Christ is foreign to our church. We walk down the aisle because we "believe in Christ", but we confuse what Jesus meant by the word. We interpret it to mean acceptance of the facts, when the definition should include much more!

James declares, "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder." (2:19)

The songs of Mary and Zechariah celebrated a birth that must have seemed completely depressing when it finally came. The King, the Creator, has arrived on earth, but He does not come in a mansion or palace. Instead he shows up in barn because no one will give him a comfortable place! Take a moment to read the Christmas story, Luke 2:1-20. Then imagine how the birth would look if it happened in today's world. Where would Jesus be born, to whom would the angels announce his coming?...

What is the Gospel? ~ This is a Greek word, which literally means "good news". In the ancient world it was used during times of war. In that time, as you know, there were no telephones, much less internet, so to send messages from one place to another a person had to take the message. At the end of great battles, runners would be sent home to report who had won. If their nation was victorious the message brought was called the gospel, the "good news" of triumph. For Christianity the gospel, the good news, is Jesus Christ and we are the runners who proclaim the victory to the world!

What do Mary and Zechariah say Jesus will bring? (different things)

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Mark 8:31-38

**34 IF ANYONE WOULD COME AFTER ME, HE MUST DENY HIMSELF AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.**

Luke 4:14-30

**18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS ON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM FREEDOM FOR THE PRISONERS AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT FOR THE BLIND, TO RELEASE THE OPPRESSED, 19 TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR."**

The snow was falling lightly as the weatherman announced a record storm was on its way. The listening farmer put on his boots and coat, and headed out to make sure the animals were warm and safe in the barn. Trampling through the snow the farmer saw a beautiful red sparrow, but the sounds he made crunching the snow scared the bird into flight. The bird floated into a tree, in which the farmer found dozens of birds, huddling in the cold. Seeing the birds, the farmer realized the storm would be too much for them to survive. "If only they would come into the barn they would be safe," he thought. So he opened the doors, thinking the birds would feel the warmth and fly in, but they remained still. So he tried to scare them in, by sneaking up behind them. Yet, as he shouted from behind, the birds flew over the barn to another tree. Next the farmer took seeds and spread them across the ground, making a trail which led into the barn. At first this seemed to work! The birds quickly came and ate the food, but they followed the trail only up to the door of the barn; at the sight of the barn, they flew away.

As the snow fall thickened, the farmer could think of no more tricks, so he closed the barn doors and headed back indoors. Looking out the window he wondered how the birds could be so afraid of him, even though he wanted to save them.

Why did Jesus have to die? ~ Obviously there was a sprite bottle (sin) between us and God, but why did Jesus have to die to remove this blockade? Certainly you are not the first to ask this question and people have come up with many answers. One explanation says Satan took us from God when we sinned and the death of Christ was the ransom payment. Another said the death was simply to set the perfect example for us. The most accepted version says that we deserved punishment for our sin, but Christ's death satisfied the need for penalty! There are many more, but all I can say is God designed things and we can't always know why! Kind of like when your mom said, "because I said so". Maybe it could have been different, but God made it this way to show His love for us!

Why do Christians die? ~ If Jesus has overcome death, shouldn't we follow Him to resurrection?! It would be cool if Maynard had come back after a few days, but the resurrection of Christians will happen when Christ returns. Paul writes, "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven... and the dead will rise first."

1 Thessalonians 4:16 ~ Paul goes into detail on this subject in 1 Corinthians 15:20-58. It is a confusing passage so read it with someone who can help you!

Imagine you are a disciple, how would you react if you heard a man had risen from the dead?

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## Luke 24

**<sup>5</sup>IN THEIR FRIGHT THE WOMEN BOWED DOWN WITH THEIR FACES TO THE GROUND, BUT THE MEN SAID TO THEM, "WHY DO YOU LOOK FOR THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD? <sup>6</sup>HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!**

I spoke with him only a few weeks before, talking about nothing special, but as we parted I reached out and squeezed his arm. I often gave him this warm gesture, only this time he grimaced with pain.

His name was Maynard. He was the man—I suppose every church must have this person—who made the meeting place a church. He was always there with children, visiting adults, even supporting the youth. Yet what made him a blessing was the selfless love he gave. I honestly couldn't imagine the church without him. Unfortunately that twist of pain signaled his fate; Maynard was dying.

Though we prayed, I still found myself in the back of the sanctuary hearing words without listening. Instead, I stared ahead to the open casket which held him, the man who lived to bring life, now lifeless. A lively saint, now in stagnate death.

In that tear-stained room the story of Eden has run its course. Sin is such a vague religious word, yet in the little church, staring at the cold still body, the word became so real. Sin took Maynard's life... it saps the life out of all of us.

Into this still cold darkness went the light of the world. Though death relentlessly holds us in the grave, it had no hold on him. So, though he had been murdered, he stood up and walked out of the grave. If we follow him he will lead us on the same path to resurrection and life.

He knew the birds would never follow a big man. Then he realized, "If only I could become a bird, then I could have warned them and they would follow me to safety."

Unfortunately man cannot become a bird; yet God became a man...

Is Jesus God or Man? ~ The church had a great debate about this and after many arguments—it wasn't decided until 400 years after Jesus went back into heaven—they concluded Jesus was both fully man and fully God. Only God could rewrite math so that two 100% still equals one! Yet, the idea that Jesus was fully man is a great blessing to us. Because he was fully human he knows all of our joys and sufferings, he experienced the events! But he was also fully God, so when he faced the happy events or the trials of life his actions were perfect. He was God, so he was able to act exactly as God designed us to live!

What did Jesus tell the crowd he was going to do?

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**Mark 15:21-47**

**<sup>37</sup>WITH A LOUD CRY, JESUS BREATHED HIS LAST. <sup>38</sup>THE CURTAIN OF THE TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. <sup>39</sup>AND WHEN THE CENTURION, WHO STOOD THERE IN FRONT OF JESUS, HEARD HIS CRY AND SAW HOW HE DIED, HE SAID, "SURELY THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD!"**

When Jacob, my little brother, was in high school a friend began asking questions about God. Everyday they would talk a little more and Jacob would elaborate on how Jesus had changed his life. Finally, his friend asked how he could become a follower of Christ and so my little brother took up his own lunch to explain. Taking M&M's—it was not a very healthy lunch—he placed one on the left side of the table and another on the right. Speaking with his friend he said this M&M is you and that one is God. Then he took his Sprite bottle and placed it in between the candies. This is sin, because of it we cannot get to God...

<sup>20</sup> When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. <sup>21</sup> He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task. <sup>22</sup> The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert. ~ Leviticus 16:20-22

Every year the Jews would celebrate the day of Atonement. It was a major event. All work would cease and the focus of the nation would turn to the priests as they offered sacrifices to atone for the sins of all the people. The climax of the festival was the release of the scapegoat into the wilderness. The priest would transfer all the sins of the people onto this animal. Then the animal would be released outside into the wilderness, which they considered evil.

<sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ~ 2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>12</sup>And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. ~ Hebrews 13:12

As the scapegoat did, Jesus took on the sins of the world and outside the city he bore them to his own death. This sacrifice ended the need for more, because He was a perfect offering. So now through Jesus sin no longer blocks us from God. Instead we may freely approach his throne!

What was the cross? ~ It was a form of execution reserved for the worst offenders—it was unlawful for a Roman citizen to be crucified. The crucifixion took place as follows. The condemned was normally flogged, then had to carry the cross beam to the place of execution. There the person was tied or nailed to the beam and then raised up. This took place in a public setting as a warning for anyone who dared to defy the empire. Those passing by would heap ridicule. The person was not severely wounded and would instead die of asphyxiation—when the body became too weak to breath.

The curtain in the temple blocked people from entering the holy place, where God resided. Why was it torn in two when Jesus died?

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