

## Sights & Sounds: Oh Happy Day: *The Greatest Day In History*

Think about the happiest day you've ever had. Maybe it was last Christmas. Maybe it was a super-fun day at the beach or an amusement park. Maybe it was the day you got your driver's license. Maybe it was the day you found out that you passed 6<sup>th</sup> grade & you weren't going to flunk! For older folks, maybe it was your wedding day or the day your baby was born. For you TC guys, maybe it'll be the day you graduate the TC program?

But what about the "Greatest Day in History"? Some would say it was July 4, 1776, or Aug. 14, 1945 or even Feb. 4, 2018. The fact of the matter is that the "***Greatest Day in History***" is also the "Happiest Day in History". That day was Easter morning 33A.D. – a day when the greatest event in history occurred. That day, of course, is the day Jesus rose from the dead defeating death & the devil's plans for the destruction of humanity. Never in the history of the world had something like this occurred. Jesus' resurrection is simply the pivotal date in the history of the world. Jesus had died in our place (**Gal 2:20**), paying for our sin with His blood the previous Friday on a brutal Roman cross. And though Jesus had predicted that He would rise on the third day, no one (even His disciples) didn't believe Him. But on Easter morning, Jesus did just that "***The empty cross, the empty grave, Life eternal, you have won the day Shout it all, Jesus is alive, He's alive!***" The giant stone capping His tomb was rolled away. The Roman guards outside His tomb fled in fear. And Jesus walked out of the grave alive and made new though still bearing the scars of His crucifixion. Though the Jewish leaders tried to make up stories about why Jesus' tomb was empty, the witnesses proved otherwise. The risen Jesus was witnessed by Mary Magdalene, then by two travelers on the road to Emmaus, then by the 10 disciples, then the 11, then 500 people at one time (**1Cor 15:3-9**).

On that terrible day, Good Friday, Jesus our sin is paid for our sin on the cross. "***Oh happy day, you washed my sin way!***" And on the "Greatest Day in History" on following Easter morning, Jesus' resurrection proved that He is a God, He is the Savior of the world. Through Jesus' death & resurrection, we are eternally free from our sin & from eternal death in hell "***Oh happy day, I'll never be the same!***" Paul summed it up in **1Cor 15:57, 54:57**: *But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. ...when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*<sup>56a</sup> *For sin is the sting that results in death....*<sup>57</sup> *But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Jesus made you, loves you & came to save you now & for all eternity. But by default (original sin) we are slaves to sin, which separates us from God & drags us down. Our great enemy, Satan, tempts us & uses sin to destroy us. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, sin in us & in our lives (**1Jn 3:8b**) *But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.*

--SKIT--

In & around this building, I see many who are slaves to sin, to Satan. Folks, every single person who is a slave to the things in this skit will suffer in regret. Sin never satisfies. You can be a slave to sin, popularity, coolness, trends, money, possessions, partying, sex, booze, drugs, power, etc. But ALL these lead to eternal separation from God (**Col 2:13**). Many are slaves to their own pride & ego, believing they are their own god. To that, I quote The Hulk as he referred to Loki after trouncing him: "*Puny god...*" Did you make yourself? Did you make this world? C'mon... don't be a puny god... Folks, Almighty God loves you & made you! Jesus Christ died for you & rose from the dead on the Greatest Day in History to give you the opportunity to be free from the chains of sin & to give you eternal life, ***endless joy & perfect peace, earthy pain finally will cease***. Please accept the gift of Jesus' death & resurrection & walk in His freedom & His light and be a slave to righteousness (God's way of life) (**Rom 6:1-23**)!

### SCRIPTURES

**1Cor 15:3b-8** Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, He was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then He was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I [Paul] also saw Him.

**Col 2:13** You were dead because of your sins & because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins.

**Rom 6:5-7** Since we have been united with Jesus in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the happiest day in your life or "the greatest day in the history" of your life?
  2. Read 1Cor 15:3b-8. Dan said the first Easter is "the Greatest Day in History"? Is Dan right? Why or why not?
  3. Read 1Cor 15:54-57. Many fear death. How did Jesus defeat sin & death & why is this so incredibly important?
  4. The skit tonight was very powerful. What did you get from the skit? What did it communicate to you?
  5. Read Rom 6:5-7. Jesus set us free from the power of death & sin. Do have areas of sin in your life that you need to let go?
  6. The amazing gift of Easter is freedom from sin & eternal life in Jesus Christ. Do you finally want to accept Jesus' gift tonight?
- CLOSING PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for the Greatest Day in history! Thank You for dying in my place. Thank You for rising from the dead. Thank You for defeating sin & death for me. I accept Your eternal sacrifice for me & the shedding of Your precious blood as the payment for my sins. You are my Lord & Savior! Take away any sin in me & lead me along Your right pathway in this life until we meet in Heaven!

### "Happy Day" Lyrics

*The greatest day in history, death is beaten you have rescued me  
Sing it out, Jesus is alive  
The empty cross, the empty grave, Life eternal, you have won the day  
Shout it all, Jesus is alive, He's alive*

*Oh happy day, happy day, You washed my sin away  
Oh happy day, happy day, I'll never be the same  
Forever I am changed*

*When I stand, in that place, free at last, meeting face to face  
I am yours, Jesus you are mine  
Endless joy and perfect peace, Earthly pain finally will cease  
Celebrate Jesus is alive, He's alive!*

*Oh what a glorious day, what a glorious way that you have saved me!  
Oh what a glorious day, what a glorious name, Jesus!*

*Oh happy day, happy day, You washed my sin away  
Oh happy day, happy day, I'll never be the same  
Forever I am changed*