

Rock Us: 4-10-19 *Ya'll Need Jesus*

We all have needs in life. When you wake up in the morning, you need some specific things: a shower, a toothbrush, coffee, breakfast, clean clothes. You don't need a road flare, a jack, a tow truck & an emergency roadside assistant. But when you break down on the way home from Target or Old Navy, you really need those specific things. If you going to the beach, you need a swimsuit, suntan lotion, a towel, a beach blanket, maybe a beach umbrella. But if you get seriously hurt or critically ill at the beach, these things won't help you. Instead, you'll need an ambulance, EMT's, a hospital, doctors & nurses, medical equipment & medicine, etc.

So in life, we all have specific needs, and we have specific people & things that help us meet those needs. But life can be confusing & complicated. We're constantly bombarded with messages that tell us what we "need" to be happy, complete, successful, satisfied, fulfilled & accepted. The world says we need more friends, "likes", followers, attention, 'levels & skins', fun, experiences, pleasure, sex, possessions, money, beauty, fame, degrees, awards or status. But the more of these things we get, the more we want. They never satisfy...they never completely meet our needs...

And I've noticed that the one thing the world doesn't say we need is JESUS. Now I know about the "*Ya'll Need Jesus*" shirts out there. But let's face it, this is a nothing more than a mockery of southern people, street preachers & evangelists and their message about Jesus. The funny thing is in there mockery, they are transmitting the absolute, single-most important truth: **WE ALL NEED JESUS!**

We all need Jesus & Jesus alone, above all other needs. Jesus alone meets all of our needs. Jesus alone is the *Bread of Life (Jn 6:48)*; *the source of Living Water (Jn 7:38)*; *The Good Shepherd (Jn 10:11)*; *the Prince of Peace (Is 9:6)*; *the Word (Jn 1:14)*; *the Gate into Heaven (Jn 10:7)*; *the Light of the World (Jn 8:12)*; *the Way, the Truth & the Life (Jn 14:6)*, *the Perfect Lamb of God (Jn 1:29)*, *the Beginning & the End (Rev 1:8)* and *the Savior of the World (Lk 2:11)*. Jesus is God come in the flesh to the Earth to die for us & raise from the dead (Easter!). No one else in history past, present or future matches Jesus. He came because we needed God to come & save us from ourselves. Without God, we humans quickly degenerate into terribly destructive sin. That sin isn't just stealing, rape & murder. It's also gossip, lying, cursing, jealousy, revenge, disrespecting our parents. Sin is also placing *anything* in life above God (idol-worship): it could be sports, cheer-leading, music, theater, guitars, video games, technology, friends, social media (SC/IG/FB), school, your BF/GF. Putting anything first above God is a sin.

Our sins damages us, those around us, & it damages our relationship with God. The more we sin, the further we separate ourselves from God. This just leads to more sin & worse sin. (Teen Challenge guys, you know what I'm talking about!)

We all are guilty of sin, every single one of us (**Rom 3:23**). Ultimately, sin is our offense against our Almighty, All-Holy, Infinite God. Our sin is an infinite crime against an infinite being, God Almighty. And before Him we are all guilty. But our sins demand **justice**, just like any crime. But **nothing** we could ever do or pay could ever cover the mountain of sins we pile up in life. Still, our sins demand justice & payment. God is a God of perfect holiness & justice. No amount of good deeds, good vibes, positive waves can pay for our sins against God. In our sinful state, we can't be in God's holy presence. Therefore, our sins destine us to be eternally separated from God in Hell (**Rom 6:32a**). This is a biggest of problems; this your greatest need... But what can we do?

But this is where Jesus comes in. Because of God's amazing **mercy & grace**, He sent Jesus to be the one & only perfect sacrifice for our sins. That's what Good Friday is, that what the cross represents. Jesus took on the payment for our sins, once & for all. He died in our place to defeat sin & cover our crimes against God with His blood (**Rom 5:8**). That's God's amazing **mercy** – not getting the punishment we deserved. But Jesus didn't stay dead. He had previously told His followers that He would raise from the dead after 3 days. And that's what happened on Easter morning! Jesus did this to defeat death itself! No one ever did this -not Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, Ghandi, Mother Teresa – nobody died for you & rose again for you! Jesus defeat of death is our promise of the gift of eternal life (that God's **amazing grace**- getting a gift we didn't deserve, heaven instead of hell). In His **mercy**, Jesus took the whipping & nails & torture we deserved. In His **grace**, Jesus makes the Way for us to be with God in Heaven (the gift of eternal life) (**Rom 6:23b, Eph 2:8-9**).

Last week, I showed this slide "Jesus Changes Everything". And it's true. If you need peace, meaning, freedom, friendship, healing, acceptance, significance, security, purpose, an eternal life- Jesus alone meets those needs. So guess what? *Ya'll Need Jesus!* This is what Easter is all about (it's not about spring break, bunnies, eggs, and candy). Jesus calls on you. He says, come to Me, trust in Me, I will meet your every need & your most pressing need- dealing with your sin. **Romans 10:9** really tell us the basic steps in this. Trust in Jesus for your greatest needs, you have no great friend than He (**Jn 15:13**).

BIBLE SCRIPTURES

Rom 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Rom 6:23a For the wages of sin is death...

Rom 6:23bbut the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 5:8 But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Rom 10:9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Eph 2:8-9 God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Jn 15:13 "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tonight we talked about human needs. What are some basic needs in your life?
2. Read Rom 3:23 & 6:23a. The "*Falling Plates*" video graphically shows a lot of truth about life, sin & God's rescue plan. From the video & from your experiences in life, how do people mistakenly try to fulfill their needs in life? What happens?
3. Read Rom 6:23b & 5:8. "*Falling Plates*" showed a single, unbroken plate descending in the midst of breaking plates & then rising again. This plate represent Jesus . A.) What does Jesus mean for humanity? B.) What has Jesus meant in your life?
4. Jesus has many names & descriptions in the Bible. Let's go through these & briefly what they tell us about Jesus. Jesus is...
 - a.) the *Bread of Life* (Jn 6:48); b.) *the source of Living Water* (Jn 7:38); c.) *the Good Shepherd* (Jn 10:11); d.) *the Word* (Jn 1:14)
 - e.) *the Prince of Peace* (Is 9:6); f.) *the Gate into Heaven* (Jn 10:7); g.) *the Light of the World* (Jn 8:12);
 - h.) *the Way, the Truth & the Life* (Jn 14:6); i.) *the Lamb of God* (Jn 1:29); j.) *the Beginning & the End* (Rev 1:8);
 - k.) *the Savior of the World* (Lk 2:11).
5. Read Rom 10:9. "*Ya'll Need Jesus*" - Perhaps no truer words have ever been spoken. Is there anyone here tonight that wants to accept Jesus as their Lord & Savior & His amazing gifts of salvation & eternal life from Jesus? (You will never regret it!)

CLOSING PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for Your perfect life, Your amazing love for us & Your humble sacrifice for our sins. Thank you for being the only Way for us to come back to God. Thank you for the gift of Eternal life in Heaven. Lord Jesus, we need You above all else. We lift up anyone here tonight that accepted You as their Lord & Savior. We praise Your Holy Name, Lord Jesus for these saved lives! Lord, let us never forget or waste Your precious gift. Help us to honor You with our lives. Amen.