

My Redeemer – Wk 1 The Greatest!

Who is this Jesus we sing – pray – and worship – this Palm Sunday.
A lot is said about him...

Playdough person - we make Jesus into what works for us - usually so that he is no threat to our life...

The cute baby Jesus: Halo, cute, dependent. Nice Jesus: play nice / be good. Hippie Jesus: bath robe, earthy, pot. Handy man Jesus: power to fix things, good luck charm. Mr. Clean Jesus: On the cross forever, quick confession. Happy Jesus: Smiley, plastic grin, next to a tomb.

The Bible as a whole paints a different picture of Jesus!

The NT makes big claims: man / God / miracles / a cross / death / risen
Seems unbelievable - is it myth, true, or little of both?

The NT- the most reliable ancient documents in history

4 Gospels: 4 books - 4 writers (confirmed eyewitness accounts)

- Matthew: to Jewish – more teachings than others – J. our Messiah
- Mark: (Peter) to seeker Romans, w/ action- more miracles - J. our King
- Luke: (Paul) to gentiles - doctors interviews, w/ details – J. our Savior
- John: to Christians – spiritual / practical - extras – J. our God

Mark (w/ Peter) written earliest - eyewitness action - Right off the top big claims
Mark 1:1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus (God is our savior) the Messiah (Christos: anointed royal promised king), the Son of God. (God in flesh)

This is the true story of The true KING

Mark says, that Jesus is not just a historical figure but the King of all - I'll prove it - he tells of more miracles than most

Colossians 2:9 For in him (Jesus) the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

When Jesus showed up, God himself stepped onto the scene

Galatians 4:4-5 "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 3:13)

Jesus is the redeemer King!

Redemption - Money term - refers to debt being paid or purchased - Christ purchased us on the cross.

Redeem coupons/ car restoration w/ original parts / a ransom. purchase – taking something lost or broken and restoring it!

My Redeemers Arrival – It was unlike anything they expected

Phil 2:5 Your attitude (Lit. mindset) should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

Playdough: Jesus in our hands vs our life in his hands

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (abuse or manipulate – God almighty... his mindset was humility)

• **My Redeemers Humility in his birth**

How would you expect the king of all creation to arrive?

Not in an animal bowl wrapped in a baby burrito.

Phil 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (incarnation, God w/ meat)

• **My Redeemers Humility in his humanity**

"but made himself nothing" - kenosis – emptied himself / made himself no reputation / gave up everything / poured himself out / to deprive self.

He did not become less God – that would be impossible.

Jesus humbly emptied himself – became a lowly servant. Making himself nothing for his own creation – God took on human flesh.

Taking on flesh for eternity. The king became the pauper

• **My Redeemers Humility in his life**

As a teen - The father of all submitting to his earthly parents

His teaching – the greatest in the kingdom is the least – last / first

His actions – serving the sick and poor – washing disciples feet

His example – his baptism (3 of the 4 G's record his baptism)

Mark 1:9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, (emersion) he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. (Lit. hovered - only other place the H.S. is referred to like this is Gen 1:2 Spirit hovered over earth at the start of creation) 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Mark is pointing us back to creation - God / God's word / God's Spirit)

All present at work in creation – as the work of creation unfolds

All present at Jesus baptism – as the work of redemption unfolds

Jesus arrival was a new beginning for all of creation – a redeemer

Back to - Philippians 2:7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross! (It cost everything - the cost of incarnation - to be human and endure the cross)

• **My Redeemers Humility in his death**

He humbled himself and allowed himself – to feel every blow / every whip lash / the most painful and embarrassing death imaginable.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...

Phil 2:9 Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name 10 that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (This is the exaltation – he is now the name above all names)

To fully understand Jesus final miracle before the resurrection
Let's take a look at his first miracle.

My redeemer's arrival of the miraculous - an amazing picture of his life

John 2 - Jesus recently baptized –disciples start following - days later a friend of the family was getting married in Cana – Jesus is invited...

John 2:1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, (mother possible coordinator, family connection) 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

Sparks debate - few thoughts: Fruit of the vine, common drink, fresh water scarce. Wine in ancient times had a lower alcohol content. Bible condemns alcohol abuse / drunkenness not consumption. **BUT - this story is not about the wine**

It is not clear what his mother has in mind - do something to calm the crowd - take collection, purchase more - perhaps senses a miracle...

4 "Woman, (polite address, like ma'am - but not for mothers. Suggests a change in authority with her) why do you involve me?" (What does this have to do with me?) Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." (The time to reveal myself is not now) 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

It was not the time to reveal himself – but he turned it into a teachable moment - what happens next is behind closed doors

6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, (Jars crafted for a divine purpose – but unused) each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. (They hauled in... about 150 gallons of water)

8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. (It was a backroom secret – for the eyes of the servants and Jesus disciples only) Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; (lit – when they have had enough) but you have saved the best till now." (Jesus is the living wine – he is always better than the rest) 11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the

first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (They started to get it – this is the one...)

Jesus started his miracle ministry with a picture of humility

In front of his disciples his first miracle says this (the plan of Salvation)

1. **We are the Jars of clay** – made of dirt, imperfect & empty
(2 Cor 4:7 ...but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars)

But like the jars - 2. **We are created and crafted with a divine purpose**
Jesus used ceremonial jars. Created to honor God, set apart to know our

3. **We must recognize we are empty before Him**

Martin Luther - God created the worlds out of nothing – as long as we are nothing, God can make something out of us.

Matthew 20:26 But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (ransom = redeemer)

4. **We are to be filled with the cleansing power of God's Spirit.**

God's spirit is the water that we are to be filled with
When this happens – there is a transformation that happens

5. **When we are poured out – miracles happen**

When did the water become wine? When it was poured out

When we empty ourselves and humbly submit to Jesus - we are filled with his Spirit – and when God pours you out – you become fruitful – **Resulting in honored from the master! And the groom gets the glory.**

Music: Let me tell you about the redeemer- what he poured out!

Eyewitness accounts record that he was – Betrayed by a friend - dragged thru an illegal **court** process - beaten and **flogged** just with-in death – **sentenced** to die a torturous death like a criminal – forced to **carry his cross** - humiliatingly **stripped naked** (gambled for his clothes) and **spikes driven** into his hands and feet - lifted up to be **mocked**...

1 Peter 1:18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

As Jesus was poured out... the greatest miracle of all time took place. Forgiveness of sins.

Jesus Christ - Forgiveness for every area - blood flowed from 7 places

* But there are things I can't face... 1 Face - plucked & hit – shame...
 * But you don't now the things in my head... 2 Head - Thorns in skull
 Thoughts, mind, things that only you know of...
 * But you don't understand... I've turned my back on him... 3 Back -
 beaten to a pulp - blood flowed for you who turned your back in him
 * But you don't know what I have done and where I've been... 4 & 5
 Hands - nailed – to cleanse us from things we have done that we regret
 * And then they took his feet and pinned him to the cross... 6 & 7 Feet -
 nailed – for the places you've gone - where you should not have been

7 times – 7 places... perfection... unparalleled, unmatched,
 unsurpassed, unequalled, unending forgiveness.
HE CRIED OUT IT IS FINISHED!!!

Most crucifixion victims die a slow horrible death of dehydration, blood
 loss, infection, asphyxiation, insanity and wild animals - but not Jesus.
 His body was not to be dishonored. When the payment was full he
 chose the time down to the minute...

KNOW THIS - His life was not taken - it was given!

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and
 brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have
 redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

That piece of wood! That symbol - History has idolized it, despised it,
 gold plated it, burned it, worn it, & trashed it – but to the redeemed it is
LIFE GIVING SALVATION!

How do I know this is all true? Because three days later the
 tomb is empty... Jesus is ALIVE!

Two Questions today?

****What Jesus are you making? Playdough cross vs. real cross**

****What's the king making with you? Playdough that is not kept fresh - -
 gets dry, hard – stubborn**

1 Peter 5: 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand,
 that he may lift you up in due time.

As we leave – Let's celebrate what Jesus has done! Psalm 107:2 Let the
 redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble

Playdough –

Song for the passion story –

Easter vids –

Finest Hour

HE Rose

Our King Forever

Just getting started

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old
 things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.