

John 19v17- 42 (part 3)
 3rd December 2018 am Hill and Arcadia
The 3 R's of the crucifixion

Over the year's hurricanes have caused **unimaginable devastation**, including the loss of precious lives... here is an excerpt from a report of damage caused by hurricane Florence...

"A mother and baby were killed when a tree fell on their home in Wilmington, North Carolina... Two died in Lenoir County – a 78-year-old man was electrocuted while trying to connect extension cables, and another was knocked down by heavy winds.

Roy Cooper, North Carolina governor, said on Friday: 'this storm is relentless and excruciating'. The monster storm has claimed five lives, sent more than 22 000 into emergency shelters, and knocked out power to thousands of homes."

We see here that some people are dead and many others are displaced. It seems so tragic - especially in a context where **warnings to evacuate** had been issued by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

If the death of these precious lives had been reported a 100 years ago, **one could understand** that there was little those affected could do. For them the storm suddenly appeared.

Today however things **are very different**. There are satellites that track the hurricanes from space. Meteorologists have developed climatological models to predict the pathway of a storm.

Almost every person has access to television, radio and smart phones to receive **information and warnings**.

But in spite of all of this information about deadly storms available and known, many people don't wisely respond to the information and warnings of the imminent deadly monster storm; some ending up dead.

I wonder how many people will die in the 2019 hurricane season **simply because** of a lack of response of the wrong kind of response to impending danger.

What should they do? What would you do **in their shoes** facing an unstoppable, fiercely aggressive level 5 hurricane heading toward your home?

Do you close your eyes and bury your head in the sand and take your chances? Or is there **some wisdom** you can apply in the face of approaching danger and the safety of your life?

Doesn't it make sense in that kind of situation to **establish the facts** and then take the appropriate action?

- What is the truth regarding the hurricane?
- How do the discovered facts affect me?

- What is the responsible response to the facts

We don't have the problem of hurricanes in SA so **why all the emphasis** on dangerous and deadly hurricanes in the USA.

I have intentionally pointed out the tragedy surrounding deadly hurricanes because it can help us in our thinking and very importantly our **response to the crucifixion of Jesus**.

Over the past few weeks I have tried to show you that in the same way that there are 3R's basic to children's education - reading, writing and arithmetic – there are 3R's essential **to the saving work of Jesus** evident in this passage *John 19* describing the day Jesus was crucified.

- Requirements fulfilled
- Redemption accomplished

In summary of these first 2 R's we have seen that on the cross, Jesus finally met all the requirements of God in saving sinful men and women from condemnation.

Having fulfilled the requirements, **benefits to people** from the nations of the world followed in that redemption was accomplished

God has done a great and kind work for people. It has been amazing to see unfolding plan of God achieved; but **now there is a shift** of emphasis away from what God has done.

The shift of emphasis is to you and me having to **take responsibility** in the way we respond.

1 Response revealed

The lack of response or the wrong kind of response by so many people **living in the pathway** of a deadly storm is so much like what we repeatedly see in Christian ministry.

John Bunyan in his book "Pilgrim's Progress" captures the repeated warning that emerges from all of the Bible with the words of Evangelist, "*Flee from the wrath to come*".

Every person in this world past and present and future **is in danger of** *Romans 1:18 ...the wrath of God revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness...*

Every person who **digs their heels in** against God will face the condemnation of God along with an indescribable unending wave after wave of wrath and punishment from God.

Romans 2:5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgement will be revealed.

The dark clouds of wrath are **gathering on the horizon** getting ready for the day of wrath when the judgement of God will be executed.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

But just like **warnings to evacuate** to a place of safety is issued by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration in the event of an approaching hurricane; God not only gives us repeated warning of the wrath to come but He has also provided (2R's) for escape and safety.

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

Paul is communicating the good news of what Jesus **fulfilled and accomplished** on the cross to the Romans and the rest of us.

You and I can be saved from the storm of God's wrath by receiving the gift of 'righteousness' through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe

You must take the responsibility to act. And the right response is to believe. It is what **John also urges on his readers** as he writes this account of the crucifixion...

John 19:35 He who saw it has borne witness--his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth--that you also may believe.

But as in the case of the warning of an approaching hurricane it is fair and right that you **establish the facts** and respond appropriately.

- What is the truth regarding the crucifixion?
- How do the discovered facts affect you?
- What is the responsible response to the facts?

1.1 What is the truth regarding the crucifixion?

Facts are best established by those who were there as witnesses. John claims to have been there on that day. *He who saw it has borne witness – his testimony is true...*

John emphasized **the historicity** of the events of the crucifixion. What actually happened on that day is of crucial importance.

His comment has direct bearing on the fact that **Jesus was really dead**. This is very important as it has bearing on the miracle and supernatural event of the resurrection of Jesus the following Sunday.

John makes it absolutely clear that **Jesus died**. Although medical knowledge then was nowhere as advanced as today, it was well known that the flow of water and blood from his side (v34) was a clear indication of his death.

There is also the record of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus doing what is done to **a corpse**... *John 19:39 ...came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.*

Roman history scholar, Professor Thomas Arnold, once holder of the chair of modern history at Oxford, well acquainted with the value of evidence in determining historical facts said, *"I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence of every sort, to the understanding of a fair inquirer, than the great sign which God has given us that Christ died and rose again from the dead."*

Jesus suffered and died crying out in desperation and **God forsakenness**; completing the mission His Father sent Him to do; bringing us back to the 2R's of Requirements fulfilled and Redemption accomplished.

Sinful people can be made right with God... *Romans 3:24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*

The truth about the crucifixion is that Jesus *1 Corinthians 15:3 ...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures...*

1.2 How do the discovered facts affect you?

Like the people **who remain behind** having heard the warning of the approaching hurricane...

- **You don't really believe what is being said and simply ignore it.**

I know some family and others who can **quote verses** of Scripture and even explain the content of gospel message, but it has no effect on them. They pay lip service to the facts but remain as they are; convinced they are and will be safe.

Is that perhaps where you are?

- **You conclude all that you have heard does not affect you.**

You could convince yourself that the preachers (scientists) are again **exaggerating the severity** of the storm...

Or you could convince yourself that your own religious approach (home) **will withstand the power** of the storm. Others may need to flee but you are sorted and safe. You have your own plan.

Or you could be convinced that it is all **a deceptive scheme** to scare people so as to have control over them and possible even a way of making money.

But then maybe you are like the people **who hear the warning** of the approaching hurricane...

- **You believe all that you have heard does affect you.**

You are convinced that **you are in danger** of judgement and wrath from the hand of God. You have applied your mind to the matter by considering the truth and have concluded that unless you do something drastic soon you are in terrible danger.

Bringing us to the **final question...**

1.3 What is the right responsible response to the facts?

You know **that hurricane Florence** is at level 5 wind speeds and is fast approaching and there is a free bus ride available for anyone who will take it.

It is obvious that for anyone to get on the bus to get away from the storm **they must act** on the truth that they know. They must respond to the facts by believing

Translate that to **the spiritual need** and provision from God and you get... *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

John also urges his readers *...that you also may believe.*

It is a certain kind of believing that I would call **active believing**.

Like those who hope to escape the ravages of a level 5 hurricane **they not only believe** that there is a real hurricane and that there is a real bus waiting but they leave their home and get on the bus

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

The coming wrath of God **is infinitely worse** than a level 5 hurricane and the only way to escape to get on the bus.

Getting on the bus is **a big step**. Jesus is the driver of the bus. Jesus is the conductor on the bus. In fact Jesus is the bus.

Jesus put it **this way**... *Luke 9:23 "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

That requires **fully believing and trusting** and following Jesus above everything else.

The good reason for entrusting your soul completely to Jesus and all He has accomplished is consideration of something so obvious but often missed...

Matthew 16:26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Conclusion

Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of God to rescue sinners from condemnation and wrath.

Jesus accomplished redemption by personally suffering in the place of sinners. He secured redemption privileges for people from every nation tribe and language.

Why is the response revealed by John so basic and crucial to the saving work of Jesus and its impact on you?

The safety of your soul before God depends on whether you truly believe.

Do you really believe?