



❖ MESSAGE NOTES

MARCH MADNESS: Slam Dunking Life With Christ Week 1 - The Big Dance

*For the message about the cross is foolishness [madness] to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
~ 1 Corinthians 1:18*

"I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One." ~ John 1:34

"The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us." ~ 1 John 1:2

"And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world." ~ 1 John 4:14

"Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony." ~ John 3:11

Like the Big Dance of the NCAA tournament, everyone's invited to **THIS** dance. No wallflowers here. Everyone on earth is invited to play, to dance. But it is up to you and me to invite them.

When one of those at the meal with Jesus heard this, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will feast in the kingdom of God!" 16 But Jesus said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time for the banquet he sent his slave to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, because everything is now ready.' But one after another they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going out to examine them. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I just got married, and I cannot come.' So the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the master of the household was furious and said to his slave, 'Go out quickly to the streets and alleys of the city, and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' Then the slave said, 'Sir, what you instructed has been done, and there is still room.' So the master said to his slave, 'Go out to the highways and country roads and urge people to come in, so that my house will be filled. For I tell you, not one of those individuals who were invited will taste my banquet!'" ~ Luke 14:15-24

As he went along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). ~ Mark 1:16

*Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will turn you into fishers of people!" They left their nets **IMMEDIATELY** and followed him. ~ Mark 1:17-18*

Going on a little farther, He saw James, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother in their boat mending nets. **IMMEDIATELY** He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him.

~ Mark 1:19-20

Jesus went out again by the sea. The whole crowd came to Him, and He taught them. As He went along, He saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax booth. "Follow Me," He said to him. And he got up and followed Him.

~ Mark 2:13-14

For if only in this life we have hope in Christ, we should be pitied more than anyone. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:19

... we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to people. We are fools for Christ, ... To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, poorly clothed, brutally treated, and without a roof over our heads. We do hard work, toiling with our own hands. When we are verbally abused, we respond with a blessing, when persecuted, we endure, when people lie about us, we answer in a friendly manner. We are the world's dirt and scum, even now.

~ 1 Corinthians 4:9b-13

To us who are being saved, the message of the cross is the power of God.

~ 1 Corinthians 1:18b

"Pascal's Wager"

Blaise Pascal posited that all human beings essentially wager with our lives either that God exists or He does not exist. Pascal concluded that a rational person should believe in God and live their life as if God exists. If God turns out not to exist, that person only stands to lose a few finite things in this life, like sinful pleasures and luxuries, and there is no afterlife to be concerned about. On the other hand, if God DOES exist, that person who followed Christ, while perhaps forsaking some luxuries in this life, receives the infinite gains associated with eternal life. However, to reject God and live as though He does not exist, then later find out He actually does, results in infinite losses, an eternity in Hell. Either way, all of us are wagering our chance at eternal life.

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing, perishing, among whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe so they would not see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:4

For we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For God, who said "Let light shine out of darkness," is the one who shined in our hearts to give us the light of the glorious knowledge of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that the extraordinary power [belongs to God and does not come from us. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

always carrying around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our body. For we who are alive are constantly being handed over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal body. As a result, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:10-12

For all these things are for your sake, so that the grace that is including more and more people may cause thanksgiving to increase to the glory of God. Therefore we do not despair, but even if our physical body is wearing away, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary, light suffering is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison because we are not looking at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:15-18

Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His plea through us. We plead with you on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God!" ~ 2 Corinthians 5:20